

150

Tuesday December 10 1996

Abu Dhabi D 0.50	Germany D 4.00	Norway NK 18
Algeria L 2.20	Guatemala G 1.50	Canada CA 1.00
Andorra FF 10	Hong Kong HK 2.25	Denmark DK 1.00
Australia AU 0.80	India IN 1.20	Finland FI 1.00
Bahrain B 0.35	Indonesia ID 1.20	France F 1.00
Bangladesh BT 0.50	Iran IR 1.20	Germany D 4.00
Belgium BF 0.50	Italy I 1.20	Spain S 1.00
Canada CA 1.00	Japan J 1.20	Sweden SE 1.00
Cyprus C 0.50	South Korea SK 1.20	Switzerland SF 3.20
Czech Republic KC 0.50	Sri Lanka LK 1.20	Taiwan TW 1.20
Dominican Republic DR 1.00	Tanzania TZ 1.20	Thailand TH 1.20
Egypt EG 0.50	Turkey TR 1.20	USA US 2.75
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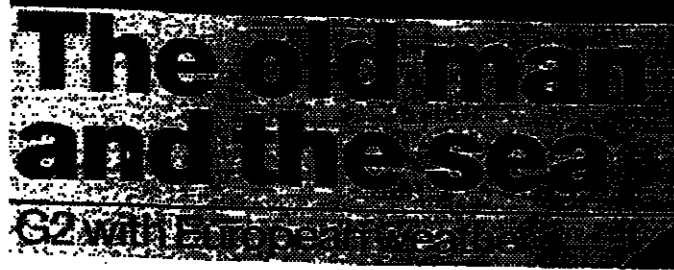
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,732

Why everyone loves Patrick O'Brian



A slob's guide to low-maintenance health



Education

Teachers protest

...end of ... retirement

pages 10/11

Man who attacked playground children faces life sentence



The machete used by Horrett Campbell in his attack on children attending the teddy bears' picnic at St Luke's, Wolverhampton

The price of terror

JP failed to order mental check

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A PARANOID schizophrenic found guilty yesterday of attempting to murder seven women and children with a machete at an infant school's teddy bears' picnic in St Luke's, Wolverhampton, in July this year.

But no psychiatric report was ordered and Horrett Campbell, aged 33, emerged from a brief jail sentence to carry out his attack at St Luke's infant school, in Blackenhall, Wolverhampton, in July this year.

Ian Gillespie, the magistrate who made the decision not to seek a psychiatric report, defended his decision yesterday partly on the grounds that Campbell said he would not co-operate.

Probation officers and penal reformers last night called for changes in the treatment of mentally disturbed offenders.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that it was the job of the psychiatric services to try to persuade mentally ill offenders into treatment. The courts were sure not to adjourn cases for psychiatric reports because of the costs. Mr Fletcher said: "We must stop seeing these as isolated cases. It is part and parcel of the failure of community care."



Horrett Campbell, refused to accept psychiatric help.

Campbell, who had a reputation for 'Dunblane' murderer Thomas Hamilton and Martin Bryant, who killed 35 people in Tasmania, was told he faces life imprisonment for the attack on four women and three children at St Luke's. A jury at Stafford crown court convicted him unanimously on all counts.

Mr Justice Sedley ordered him to be detained at Ashworth high security hospital, Liverpool, for 12 weeks for assessment before sentencing. "Unless this is a case in which I am caused to send you to a mental hospital I shall be certainly passing a sentence of life imprisonment on you."

The judge also said he would recommend a bravery award for Lisa Potts, 21, the nursery nurse at the school who shielded many of the children from the attacks. She received severe cuts to the head, arms and back.

As Ms Potts left the court yesterday, she said: "The school is getting back to normal now and the children are absolutely marvellous. You can't believe that children with such terrible scars on their faces would come out of it all so well."

The four-day trial heard that Campbell had claimed the children at the school were part of a conspiracy against him and called him devils. A witness said that Campbell had strode through the playground littered with toys brandishing the 2ft machete as if cutting corn. Asked why he had stopped the attack, Campbell replied: "It was enough. I wanted to get even and hurt them."

Police found newspaper pictures of Hamilton and Bryant pasted to his bedroom wall in his nearby flat. Beside Bryant's picture, Campbell had drawn a Valentine's love heart and Cupid's bow.

Campbell had appeared at Wolverhampton magistrates court in November 1995 charged with affray and possession of an offensive weapon. The court report recommended that Campbell be psychiatrically assessed before sentencing.

The report said that Campbell had claimed that, for two years, he had heard voices whispering about him and had set fire to his own car. "He appeared to have a medical condition that required treatment," said the report.

The magistrate, Mr Gillespie, declined to order a psychiatric report and jailed Campbell for two months. Last night, Mr Gillespie defended his decision.

"Mr Campbell's solicitor told me that Mr Campbell had informed him that he would not co-operate with any psychiatric report," said Mr Gillespie in a statement. "That alone would not have dissuaded me from ordering a psychiatric report. However, I was informed by his solicitor that Mr Campbell denied having heard voices and that when he told the probation officer about the 'whispering voices' he had been 'joking around'. The offences for which I was sentencing were not such as to trigger automatically the need for a psychiatric report."

Mr Gillespie said that he was satisfied that, based on the information he had, he had made the right decision. Campbell's solicitors last night confirmed the magistrate's version of events.

Lower who admitted killers, page 4



Lisa Potts with head teacher Denise Bennett

EU leaders' deal adds to Major's turmoil

Francis and Germany

FRANCE and Germany fuelled John Major's political turmoil last night as they spat out their determination to seek faster progress on the European single currency.

Ministers struggling to control feuding within Tory ranks derived some comfort from the failure of France and Germany to bury their differences on how to run the euro. Any respite for the Government is likely to be temporary before this weekend's European Union summit in Dublin.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Jacques Chirac announced after their bilateral summit in Nuremberg that their finance officials would continue working towards a deal on the contentious "stability pact" designed to buttress the euro with strict rules for economic management — and fines for delinquent states.

In a wide-ranging policy initiative that will aggravate tensions within the Tory ranks, both leaders also issued a 12-page letter to the Dublin summit, calling for greater European integration over a broad sweep of home affairs, police operations, the hyper-sensitive issue of immigration, plus foreign and defence policy-making.

At Westminster, senior ministers insisted that "things are calming down" within the Conservative ranks after Mr Major's authoritative restatement on Sunday of the cabinet's "wait and see" policy on the euro.

But Tory Euro-sceptics promised to pursue their campaign for an outright No to the euro. And one MP, the Bamburgh populist Teresa Gorman, announced she will keep the feud going by intro-

ducing a bill in January to hold a referendum on total British withdrawal from Europe.

The issues will be aired this week in a two-day Commons debate before Dublin.

Whitehall officials last night took a relaxed view of the Nuremberg communiqué as not being a "hugely important or seminal document". But they have been wrong before. British officials also see the Irish presidency draft for the parallel inter-governmental conference (IGC) negotiations as "a snapshot for the family album" — with real decisions being taken at the Amsterdam summit next June when Tony Blair could be in power.

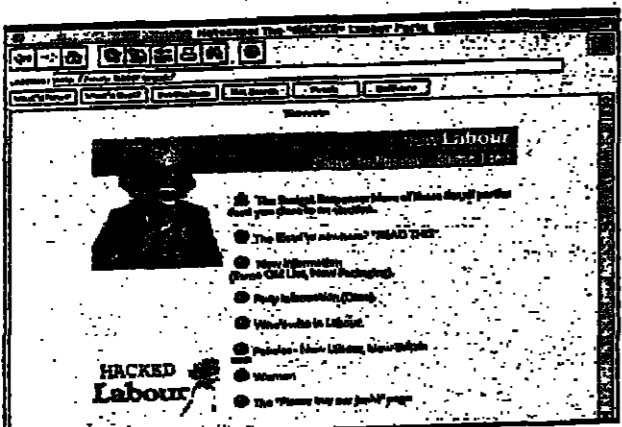
Sceptics in London believe tensions will mount in the months ahead as EU states struggle to qualify to join the euro currency club. And, in what was construed as a calculated snub directed at the German finance minister, Theo Waigel, and the powerful German central banker, Hans Tietmeyer, Mr Chirac insisted the independence of the future European central bank had to be balanced by a political counterweight.

To German bankers that is a euphemism for laxity. And in parallel to the summit, Mr Waigel and his French counterpart, Jean Arthuis, failed to settle the fundamental differences over the role of the central banks, macro-economic policy-making under the single currency regime, and the rules governing fiscal behaviour after the currency is launched in 1999.

When he faced the all-party Commons Treasury select committee, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, offered a sop to Tory Euro-sceptics last night as he played down the importance of the 1999 deadline to page 8, column 7

Redwood smiling, page 4; John Effen, page 9

Hacker takes over Labour's cyberspace



'Hacked' Labour, with Tony Blair's Spitting Image effigy

FOR a man who professes to be the champion of the information revolution, Tony Blair could not have received a better lesson in the consequences of arming the nation's youth with access to cyberspace.

Last night, the Labour Party's Internet site was being stripped in a desperate attempt to fend off a determined onslaught by an American hacker who started on Saturday. In the space of two attacks, the site was transformed from a slick exercise

in the future of political communications to the laughing stock of the World-wide Web.

During the first raid, the hacker changed the title "Road to the Manifesto" to "Road to nowhere". He also tinkered with links to other Web sites so they read "The Labour Party sex shop", and transferred visitors to pages carrying pornography.

The site was restored within 20 minutes. But as senior Labour officials met yesterday to discuss improving security after the initial raid, the hacker, who would not reveal his identity, contacted the Guardian to warn that he was about to hit

Labour again. "Watch the Labour home page. I'm going to hack it again," he said before ringing off.

He regained access and carried out a more devastating raid, adding Mr Blair's Spitting Image effigy to the home page under the banner: "Hacked Labour: Same Politicians, Same Lies. Links suspended to detail Labour personalities transferred visitors to the site of Jim Henson's Muppet Show."

He may have done Labour a favour: the site temporarily became one of the most popular on the Web, at one point collapsing under the weight of visitors.

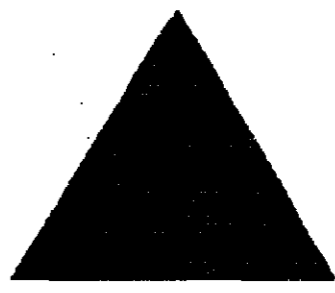
At first, Labour was philosophical about its ordeal, with officials pointing out that accessibility was what made the Internet so appealing. But the soft line changed after the second raid when a spokeswoman said police had been called in.

The running of the site is contracted out to two companies. On-line Publishing, which sets up and maintains the pages, and Poptel, which provides the Web space.

Last night, both companies were struggling to discover how the hacker had managed to overcome security measures on two separate occasions.



Peace, love, flowers.



Beer.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

Inside Britain World News Finance Sport

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 18

50

770261 307323

Sketch

Big Man Hezza sees off dweebs



Simon Hoggart

THE Government is crumbling... Mr Hoggart had no trouble with the dweebs, so I cleared off to the Upper House...

ing everyone Handkerchief Vouchers for Christmas... Mr Hoggart had no trouble with the dweebs...

Metropolitan Police plans hotline to encourage informants to report dishonesty among colleagues

Yard targets corrupt officers

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

UNDERCOVER police are to be used to catch their corrupt colleagues... Scotland Yard announced yesterday...

of the force can voice concerns about colleagues... Where we have reason to be concerned, we will act on this information...

their concerns or suspicions... Mr Hayes said: "What we're saying is don't turn a blind eye..."

phone interception, said Mr Hayes... Officers may also be deployed in undercover roles...

times for cash, he said... Mr Hayes, who has studied the anti-corruption methods...

the chance of a successful prosecution, said Mr Hayes... The Police Federation, while supporting efforts...

20 years of corruption, crackdowns and obstruction at the Met

On June 28, Detective Constable John Donald, 37, of the South East regional crime squad...

Complaints Authority was founded, examined complaints about Stoke Newington police station...

In July 1977, Commander Kenneth Drury of the Flying Squad was jailed for seven years for corruption...

In 1976, 74 officers were investigated, 12 resigned, 28 retired, eight were dismissed and 13 jailed...

Officers will be given a card with the number of the Right Line on it... "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing..."

Review

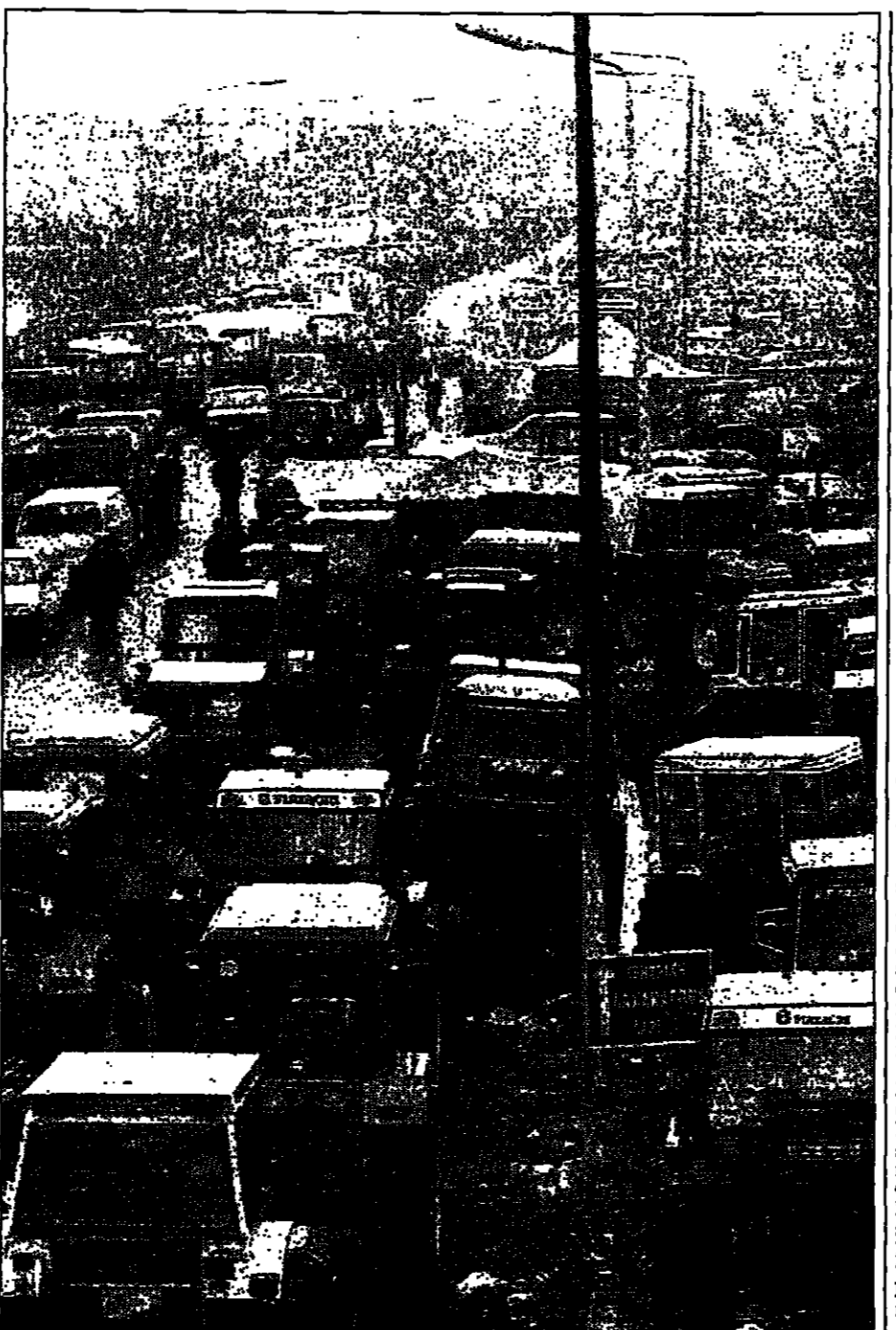
The spirit of Africa survives formality

Robin Deneslow

Salif Keita and Others: The Best of African Music

FOURTEEN years from the first Womad show, out in a field in Shepton Mallett...

mostly African—though one notable exception was the Tibetan singer Yungchen Lhamo...



Hundreds of tractors in Larissa, central Greece (pictured above), were not budging yesterday...

Mary Leakey, renowned fossil hunter, dies at 83

Greg Barrow and Agencies in Nairobi

MARY LEAKEY, the archaeologist who found footprints which testify to the earliest origins of man...



Leakey first to put flesh on bones of dusty archaeology

site to another like butterflies... "My sense is that no person has ever made a more significant contribution to the understanding of the pre-history of man through work in east Africa..."

Radio 1 boss sleighs Christmas favourites

Andrew Cuff on a pop station's change of seasonal tune to woo younger listeners



Frozen out... Old timers Cliff Richard and Wizzard

DO THEY Know It's Christmas? Not at Radio 1, it would appear...

The missing hits

- Hits you won't hear... Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, Bruce Springsteen, I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day...

- ...and those you don't want to Merry Christmas, Everybody, Slade, Mistletoe and Wine, Cliff Richard...

Parents of children with asthma face 'exploitation'

Chris Millan

PEOPLE with asthma and particularly parents of children with the illness are being exploited by the manufacturers of devices such as air filters and vacuum cleaners...

National Asthma Campaign warn today... The Consumers' Association has reported the claims made for five products to the Advertising Standards Authority...

MULTIMEDIA EDUCATIONAL CD ROM

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Winning the Brain Game is a fully interactive training system designed and produced by experts... Includes images of children and text describing the game's benefits.

Form for ordering the CD ROM, including fields for name, address, phone number, and payment method.

صوتنا من الامل

Disillusioned homeowners back council house revival

Charlotte Denny and Sarah Ryle

THE Conservatives have left their core Middle England constituency of home owners who send their children to private schools feeling disillusioned and insecure, research published today shows.

Nine out of ten homeowners, many of whom cashed in on the Tories' right-to-buy scheme for council tenants, are now so scarred by the collapse of the housing market they want the Government to invest more in the safety net of social housing, according to a study for the Economic and Social Research Council.

One first-time buyer in the survey of 800 householders said that those who had suffered most in the housing market were those who could least afford it. "You can't give up the dream of your own home and then walk away when it all goes wrong."

Over half those surveyed thought that owning a home was a burden, and most said that they regarded their house as a home rather than an investment. Recent buyers did not expect to make a profit, while those who had made money during the boom period argued that the profit existed only on paper: any gains had gone into buying their next home.

The report also shows support for more funds for state education from parents who send their children to fee-paying schools.

Forty-six per cent would make more government spending on education a top priority, compared to just 31 per cent in the state sector. The findings are part of a research programme carried out by the ESRC on attitudes towards the welfare state.

Researchers from Social and Community Planning Research and the Institute for Fiscal Studies said there was widespread support for in-

Council housing

The Government should expand council housing, %.

Strongly agree	61
Tend to agree	25
Neutral	6
Tend to disagree	4
Strongly disagree	4

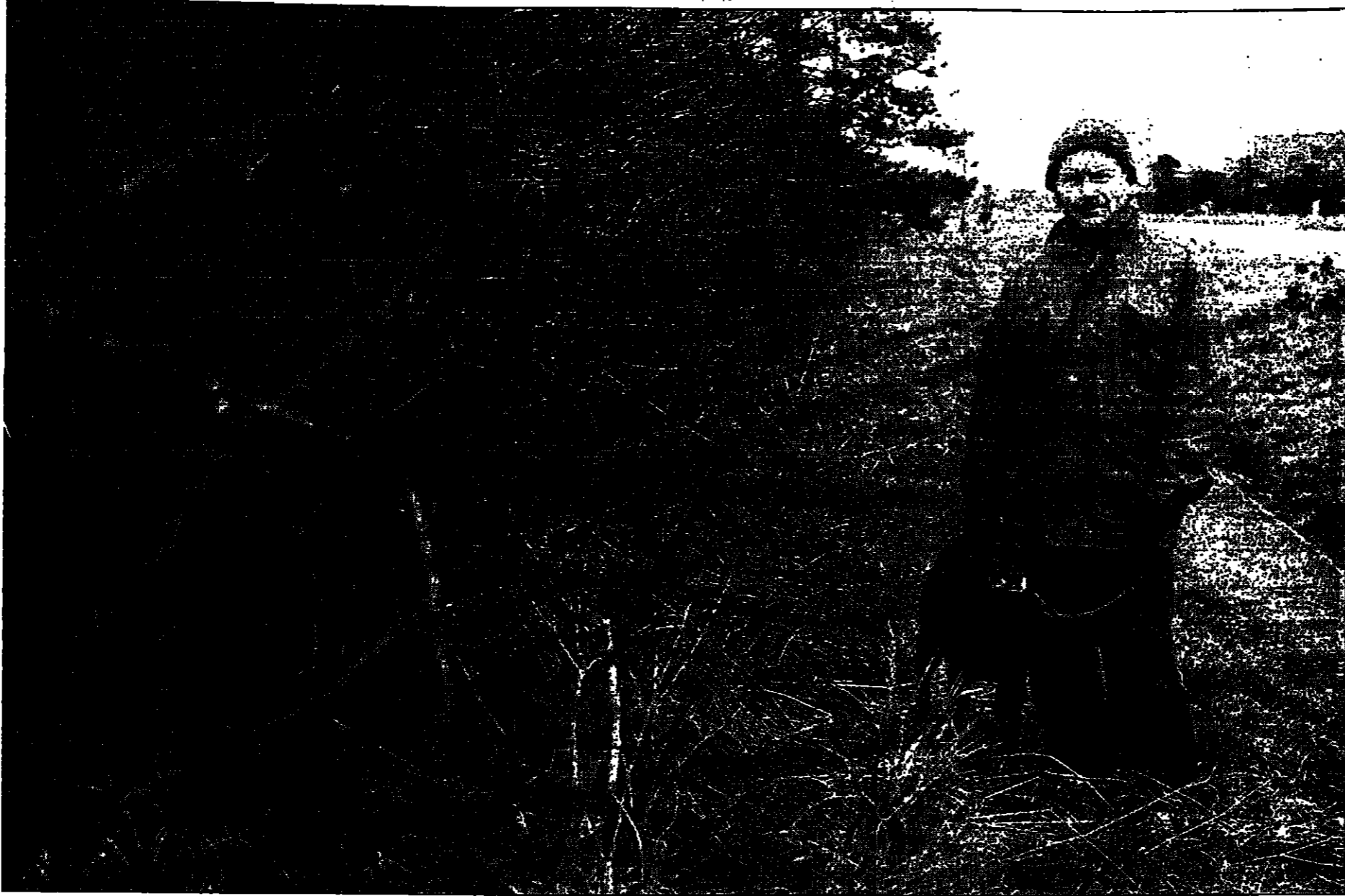
Source: ESRC

creased government spending in education — even if it means higher taxes.

Although the property owning democracy shows little sign of extinction, strong support for social housing suggested widespread pessimism and insecurity, said Professor Moira Munro of Herriot Watt University, who led the research on home-owners. She said that owners felt let down by the Government. Most felt they had been encouraged to buy their own house during the 1980s but that the Government had failed to live up to its side of the bargain by providing security and prosperity.

Most people are now expecting interest rates to rise and tax relief on mortgages to be cut further, making home loans more expensive. Changes in income support rules and the lowering of tax relief on mortgages had also made owning a house less attractive.

Two-fifths of those surveyed thought that buying a house had become more risky in the past three years. First-time buyers were less pessimistic than other groups, but even among this group a sizeable minority thought the market was more risky now than in 1991. Despite this, most people remain committed to owning their own home — and would advise others to do the same.



Campaigner Colin Seymour, with his dog Fred, beside the ancient hawthorn hedge that he is trying to protect from uprooting by Flamborough parish council. PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD WALKER

80-win amateur frightens lawyers

New victory for ex-teacher could change the landscape writes **Martin Wainwright**

BITAIN'S nimblest amateur lawyer is hoping to win the second Battle of Flamborough Head today, with consequences which could leave the Government even more embarrassed than its predecessors 200 years ago.

One man, environmental-law machine Colin Seymour, aged 63, who has triumphed in 80 landscape protection cases over two decades, may trigger a change in the whole country's hedgerow protection system on the basis of a 1765 Yorkshire enclosure act.

The precisely-worded measure, requiring parish council upkeep of a Flamborough hawthorn hedge "forever" to protect local flora and birds, was passed 16 years before the father of the US Navy, Commodore Paul Jones,

trounced a larger British militia below Flamborough's limestone cliffs.

"This case could see a similar come-uppance for the establishment," said Pete Bowler of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. "The issue is vital, because in spite of Government promises to introduce legal protection, hundreds of miles of hedgerow are being lost every year."

Mr Seymour, a former teacher who is now considered the national expert on aspects of enclosure law and the highways act, has a fearsome reputation among professional lawyers who face his theoretically amateur presentations in court.

The Department of the Environment is awaiting the result of today's hearing at Hull county court before proceeding with national protec-

tion measures for 40,000 miles of hedge.

The Flamborough battle involves 56 yards of ancient hawthorn which the cliff-top village's parish council wants to uproot to complete a bowling green. Mr Seymour, who lives in the village and has been unemployed for 10 years, was contacted by neighbours who felt that both hedge and bowling could exist side-by-side.

His discovery of the local enclosure act is mirrored, potentially, by thousands of similar documents imposed by 18th century courts as landlords and farmers divided up common land. He warned the parish council that the ancient order meant its duty to preserve the stunted trees was fundamental and without limit of time.

He is reserving comment on the issue until after the hearing, but recalled how his para-legal career began with an epic defence against the National Coal Board. Determined to crush his opposition to open-cast mining near his

then home at Methley, Leeds, the NCB launched a doomed £30 million compensation action to scare him out of court.

"I was on social security at the time," said Mr Seymour, who left school at 15 but subsequently gained degrees from Leeds and the Open universities. "I studied old documents, got interested in the law and realised that the courts were much more effective than marches or slogans." The next 79 cases proved the point.

Although outnumbering Mr Seymour, Flamborough parish council is beginning to feel more like David than Goliath, although plenty of villagers are on its side. Parish clerk Gordon Scowston said: "We only wanted to build four bowling lines on some vacant allotments, which would be an asset for the village, but it would mean taking up some hedge. Then Mr Seymour came along and issued a summons against us. Unless he fails, we can't have a bowling club."

Case history

1981: Won five prosecutions against British Coal in Morley magistrates' court, West Yorkshire, under the 1980 Highways Act, over tipping of colliery spoil. Maximum fines imposed and BC paid £100,000 to restore a road.

1981/86: After 10 hearings in West Yorkshire crown courts, based on Latin document of 1472, obliged British Waterways, British Coal, the former West Yorkshire Metropolitan county council and its successor Leeds city council to restore an old road and two destroyed bridges at a combined cost of £300,000.

1987: Compelled Leeds city council to take action against Mercantile and General Reinsurance to reopen rights of way on Parlington Lane and Fly Line which had been illegally blocked by gates, wire and armed gamekeepers.

1994/96: Forced Humberston county council to repair ancient bridleway from York to Danes' Dyke near Flamborough under Section 56 of 1980 Highways Act. Council warned before hearing that bill would be £500,000 but after judgment put cost at £1,000-2,000. "The second figure is nearer to what they paid," he says.

1995: served Section 56 notice on Humberston county council regarding Sands Lane, Bampton, scene of a 15-year dispute and public inquiry over compulsory purchase order alleging unknown ownership. Mr Seymour traced owners via 1843 enclosure document, 1845 railway plans and title map, 1910 finance act records (in Public Records Office) and House of Lords debates. His research took five days; the council had spent "thousands of pounds".

'Whispering' Sir John appointed to Order of Merit

Kamal Ahmed

SIR JOHN Gielgud, widely regarded as Britain's most distinguished actor, was yesterday appointed to the Order of Merit by the Queen.

The appointment is one of the highest honours in the gift of Buckingham Palace. There are only 24 members at any one time plus a handful of foreign honorary appointees, including Mother Teresa and, formerly, General Dwight Eisenhower, the Allied commander in the second world

war who went on to become American president.

Sir John joins Dame Joan Sutherland, Baroness Thatcher and Isalah Berlin, the political philosopher, who are also members of the Order.

Among the famous past members were Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Edward Elgar, the composer, and Florence Nightingale.

Each member is allowed to wear the order medal, crossed oak leaves with blue and crimson ribbons signifying long and distinguished service.

"I am very surprised and very much honoured," said Sir John, from his home near Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire.

Sir John, whose famous whispering voice was once described by Sir Alec Guinness as "a silver trumpet muffled in silk", gave up the stage in 1968 but says he is still keen on small roles in films and television, despite being 92.

His most recent effort, as a piano teacher in the Australian film *Shine*, has just been released in Sydney and is due in Britain next year.

A spokeswoman for his agent's office in London said that he was not at present considering any other roles.

"I get very tired," the actor said recently. "I have to ration myself and only work certain hours."

He said that when considering death, "people see it as an indecent race between me, the Pope and Boris Yeltsin", and that he did not take long roles for fear of keeling over in the middle of filming.

Sir John, who was awarded a knighthood in 1963 and has a theatre named after him in Shaftesbury Avenue, was ap-

pointed to the Order after the death of Sir Frank Whittle, the pioneer of jet engines who died in the United States in August. Sir Frank had been a member since 1965.

The Order of Merit was founded in 1902 by Edward VII and is given to those who have, in the words of Buckingham Palace, "rendered exceptionally meritorious service towards the advancement of the arts, learning, literature and science".

Sir John Mills, another knight of British theatre, said last night: "It's brilliant news and well deserved."



Sir John Gielgud 'surprised and honoured'

EU leaders fuel Major's woes

continued from page 1

line and said it was quite likely the first wave of potential euro-members would be ready by then.

He repeatedly insisted that the deadline was the least important part of the project and cast doubt on its feasibility for many of the EU states, the "fudge" scenario which sceptic ministers believe will allow Mr Clarke to join them in denouncing the whole project before election day.

EU finance ministers are to meet in Dublin on Thursday, the eve of the EU summit, in an attempt to cobble together a deal.

Mr Kohl said both countries hoped to table a joint Franco-German proposal on the stability pact.

But the war of words on the fringes of yesterday's Nuremberg summit highlighted the worsening friction between the two key European powers, despite the attempt to put on a show of unity and common purpose.

While the French prime minister, Alain Juppé, came close to describing Bundesbank-style control of monetary policy as undemocratic, the Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, urged Germany to walk away from the single currency unless the rest of Europe agreed to Bonn's insistence on a rigorous stability pact entailing "quasi-automatic" fines for fiscal reprobates.

Germany is isolated on this point, but reluctant to back down.

In a newspaper interview, Mr Stoiber used scare tactics, warning that ordinary Germans' savings would be devalued if Bonn caved in to the demands in France and elsewhere for a more relaxed single currency regime.

Mr Juppé, by contrast, described the German campaign as favouring "a technocratic, automatic system under the sole authority of the European central bank. That is not our concept of democracy."



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

'Harmless' loner who admired mass killers

Vivek Chaudhary on the life of a man who set upon children with machete

HORRETT Campbell was known by his nickname of Aiyana in the inner city neighbourhood of Wolverhampton where he had lived all his life.

hours as a loner. He often walked the streets of Blakenhall, muttering to himself. He liked tinkering with his orange-painted Volvo, having the odd drink alone in local pubs and smoking marijuana.



Lisa Potts, one of Horrett Campbell's victims, in hospital after the attack. The judge praised her bravery in shielding children PHOTOGRAPH CHARLES BISSY

brought up in Blakenhall, comes from a devout Christian family. His father, Isaac, regularly attended St Luke's Church in Blakenhall until illness made him housebound.

est in his studies and socialised with younger pupils. After leaving school he worked as a welder with an engineering firm and then as a painter and decorator for six years. He has been unemployed since 1989, and lack of money and job prospects made him increasingly frustrated.

He became more of an eccentric recluse after his mother, Rebekah, died four years ago in Jamaica. He could not afford to attend the funeral. He moved from the family home to the sixth floor of Villiers House tower block and took to walking the streets and talking to himself.

Issac, aged 84, is still in the Wolverhampton area. Friends say the whole family found it hard to come to terms with the mother's death.

Campbell "started losing his senses a bit" when his mother died. "He would mumble to himself and began stuttering when he spoke."

Campbell sought solace in horror and science fiction films — and in the actions of the two mass killers, whom he came to admire and empathise with. He saw Hamilton as an "oddball" like him, treated as an outsider.

'Horrett felt his mother's death more... and he went further into his own world'

Food poisoning outbreak claims its 10th victim

Erlend Clouston

SCOTLAND'S food poisoning epidemic recorded its tenth victim yesterday as the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, again questioned the behaviour of the butcher linked to the outbreak.

confirmed cases. Doctors are worried about 25 of the 42 adults and seven children who remain in hospital. In separate incidents in the Borders region, one person was confirmed yesterday as having died as a result of E. coli, with another three ill. Doctors have still to establish whether another Borders person who died last week was in fact infected with E. coli.

health board officials' requests that he withdraw it from sale. "The circumstances in which this meat was supplied are being investigated by police, and I do not propose to risk compromising that process by commenting further," he said.

Too-fast music could cost nightclubs their licences

Alex Bellis

NIGHTCLUBS face losing their licences if disc jockeys play music that is too fast under safety guidelines backed by the Home Office. They have a duty to play slow songs if dancers are getting "over-excited or exhausted", says the document, launched today, but they should change tempo gradually.

Drugs awareness messages should be incorporated into flyers advertising dance. Information should also be sent through the club's mailing list. Clubs should have "chill-out areas" where dancers can cool down. All staff should be trained in recognising drugs-related problems.

'Dreadful' injuries inflicted on murdered pensioner

Geoffrey Gibbs

A PENSIONER who befriended children died from "dreadful injuries" after a screwdriver was forced through his nose into his brain, Truro crown court heard yesterday.

The accused boys, who were aged 16 and 14 at the time of Mr Holman's death, cannot be named for legal reasons. The prosecution has rejected the eldest boy's plea of guilty to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility.

"Hard pressed mothers used him as an unofficial baby sitting arrangement and used to send their children to him when they wanted to work." On the day of Mr Holman's death, a Saturday, his niece had been watching television in an adjacent room with her mother, brother and sister. They had heard noises of visitors entering the house but had not taken any notice because there were always so many young people visiting.

As party turmoil worsens one Tory appears happier than ever

These days the Redwood grin just gets wider

Ewen MacAskill on how the scorecard reads in the Conservatives' Euro wars

JOHN Redwood, once the most serious-looking member of the Cabinet, uneasy with the concept of a joke, has developed over the last week a huge smile, wandering round the Westminster lobbies, stopping to chat to groups of would-be supporters among the party's Eurosceptics.

lieve he has come out best in the party revolt last week over the Government's European policy and that he has established himself as the favourite for the post-election leadership contest, assuming (as just about everyone at Westminster does) that Labour wins.



John Redwood looks every inch the happy man.

Margaret Thatcher. Mr Redwood has been speaking at four to five constituency associations a week. Last night, he addressed the 92 Group, the loose rightwing group of MPs, which includes Sir George Gardiner, who at the weekend threatened to resign the party whip over Europe.

He spoke about public services, from education through to investment in London Underground. But he will return to Europe in the two-day Commons debate which begins tomorrow.

through to those who want to make it a looser market. The most extreme are the nine who had the whip withdrawn last year, including Teresa Gorman, Tony Marlow and Sir Teddy Taylor. A fellow Eurosceptic described them yesterday as the "uncontrollables".

referendum bill, Tory dissidents also have a platform in this week's European Commons debate and in a fishing vote next week, when they will join with the Opposition to defeat the Government.



Allynay Asymuratova, who will dance the principal role

English dancers 'not well trained'

Dan Gjalster Arts Correspondent

THE artistic director of the English National Ballet attacked British dance training yesterday at the launch of the company's new production of Swan Lake, due to be staged at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in May.

within the dance world. The problem of dance training is linked to funding for dance courses. The new list will be produced in tandem with the Arts Council's Initiative on funding for dance and drama training, which aims to use National Lottery money to fund students.

Why some Tories believe they can fudge differences

Michael White on how even Kenneth Clarke may conclude that single currency is a fiddle

Some Tory Eurosceptic MPs and ministers believe they can judge their differences over the single currency by agreeing that Britain's EU partners have failed to meet the Maastricht criteria they set themselves in 1991.

single currency club have to meet to qualify. They were agreed as part of the Maastricht Treaty deal in December 1991 and were originally intended to launch the single currency in 1997, not 1999, if a majority of member states were ready. But they weren't.

man's, I'm sure. But how does it affect me or my little brother, Maurice's, car showroom? A: Well, by most tests the Maastricht criteria are considered rather deflationary. Each member state's inflation rate must be no higher than 1.5 per cent above the average of the three lowest in the EU.

UK's 560 billion GDP. And national debt, what the country owes, would have to be no higher than 60 per cent of GDP.

ading roads in protest. German spending is being cut. The Italians have just been loaded with another special one-off tax to ease the deficit gap. Paris is using a windfall sale of France Telecom pension debt. The Dutch are raiding their reserves. Don't even ask about Belgium.

Q: Lots of fiddles. Maurice would understand... A: Exactly. Helmut Kohl might tolerate a little corner-cutting to fulfil his dream, but the Bundesbank wouldn't. The idea here is that even Euro-idealists like Ken Clarke think the euro would be a costly waste of time if the whole project is so contrived that it rapidly falls apart.

صديقا من الامل

News in brief

City youth face homeless future

ABOUT one in 20 young people in Britain's cities will be homeless at some stage in a year, the YMCA said yesterday. The estimate included those sleeping rough, staying in hostels or living with friends as temporary "guests" but the figure rose to one in 10 when taking into account those in overcrowded or insecure accommodation.

TV man wins RUC damages

THE producer of a television programme alleging collusion between Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and loyalist terrorists yesterday received undisclosed libel damages from Express Newspapers which suggested his claim that he feared his life was in danger was untrue.

Student gets meningitis

AN unnamed 18-year-old student from Birmingham university has been taken ill with meningitis and admitted to Selly Oak hospital. A spokesman for the university said: "She has a meningococcal version of the disease, but we don't know which strain."

Junior doctor killed herself

A JUNIOR doctor injected a fatal dose of insulin directly into her stomach because work and exam pressure became too much, West Yorkshire coroner's court heard yesterday. Pauline Watson, aged 27, whose father is also a doctor, was found in a coma on the morning she was due to fly to Dublin to sit her Part II anaesthetics exam and died three days later in St James's hospital, Leeds.

Cancer surgeon struck off

A SURGEON who mistakenly removed the healthy part of a stomach and intestines of a 75-year-old cancer victim in what was supposed to have been a routine colon operation was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and had his name removed from the medical register yesterday.

Wetland sites drying put

MORE than 200 wetland sites and 100 rivers are drying out as a result of over-abstraction of water for drinking or irrigation purposes, according to a group of environmental organisations. Among them is the Falls of Clyde in South Lanarkshire, the home of otters, where the famous Corra Linn falls have been reduced to a trickle.



The QE2 undergoing a refit and repaint at Southampton, where specialists have been working on the vessel around the clock

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Met police fight £220,000 damages

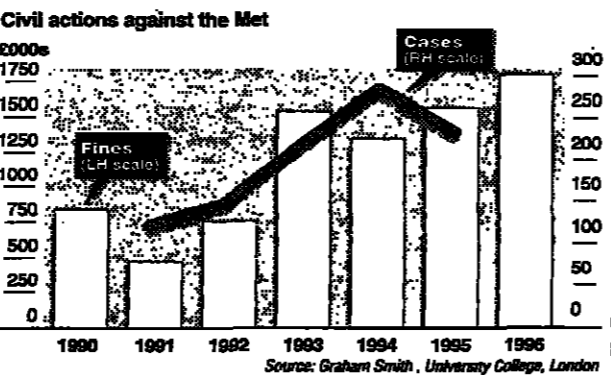
Court of Appeal asked to issue guidelines on scale of awards

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

SCOTLAND Yard launched an Appeal Court battle yesterday to end the stream of big compensation payouts for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and assault.

The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, and two other High Court judges, are being asked to reduce the bills in two test cases and to introduce guidelines so judges can instruct juries about the scale of damages they should award.

Police misconduct



He argued guidelines drawn up by judges were essential to enable cases to be settled out of court and should follow the principles laid down by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, in the Elton John libel case that damages should be the minimum necessary for a jury to show that a civil wrong did not pay.

He argued that in the Hsu case the £20,000 compensatory damages for his injuries were manifestly excessive for the hurt suffered when the Judicial Studies Board issued guidelines which said £20,000 should cover minor brain damage or the loss of a kidney.

The second case centred on Claudette Thompson, aged 30, who was arrested in September 1991 after a positive breath test when she was on her way home from a nightclub. She was taken to the police station where she refused to give a urine sample or take another breath test.

Miss Thompson was waiting for the address she had given to be checked when the senior officer shouted: "Chuck her in the bin and she was picked up by four officers carried into the cell and then jumped on. One officer pulled her hair. She screamed. They left the cell laughing."

When she was acquitted of assaulting a policeman she issued a summons for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and assault. A jury awarded her £1,500 compensation and exemplary damages of £50,000.

Hairdresser punched, kicked and left to make own way home

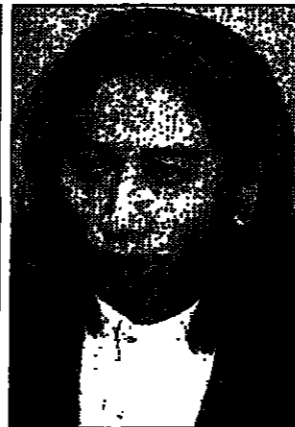
THE name of London hairdresser Kenneth Hsu, aged 32, tops the list of nine cases involving exemplary damages totalling £1.3 million that the Metropolitan police are challenging, writes Alan Travis.

Kenneth Hsu's arms were twisted behind his back, he was put in a necklock, punched and kicked, and then thrown into the back of a police van where his head was prodded with a key.

All this was in the course of being arrested by three police officers who had been called to his home in Streatham, south London, over a dispute with a tenant. When he was released from the police station, he had no shoes or money. The police refused to give him any cash and he had to beg 10p from a stranger to phone a friend to pick him up.

He made an official complaint and when it was thrown out he sued for assault and wrongful arrest. When he won his case earlier this year he was awarded £200,000 exemplary damages and £20,000 damages for his physical injuries.

At yesterday's hearing, David Pannick, QC, for the police said the jury had accepted Mr Hsu's version of events rather than that of the officers who maintained he had been arrested because he had pushed one of them.



Kenneth Hsu (above) and Daniel Goswell... payouts being challenged by police



Duchess pips Thickhead as the Turkey of the Year

Kamal Ahmed

SHE has suffered a pasting at the hands of the press and now a basting at the hands of the British Turkey Federation.

The Duchess of York (right) rounded off the year yesterday with a new trophy to go on top of the front room coal-effect gas fire recently revealed in the Ruby Wax interview. The British Turkey Federation has awarded her the Turkey of the Year Award for her unstinting ability to get herself on the front pages of all the newspapers.



Ms Abernethy said the award had been delivered to the duchess's private office in Battersea and had been received in good humour, a statement the office confirmed.

Roasted

- 1995: Paula Yates for showing off about her breast enlargements and having children with silly names.
1994: James Hewitt for not doing his duty by the Princess of Wales.
1993: Graham Taylor for leading the England football team to defeat after defeat.
1992: The ecu for leaving the Government with a mess on its hands in Europe.

her former partner, Bob Geldof, was to name their child Heavenly Hiraani. Also on the shortlist were Alicia Mackado, the Miss Universe winner who was threatened with losing her title after she put on weight, Pamela Anderson, for her turbulent relationship with the rock star Tommy Lee, and the Estonian football team for failing to turn up for their World Cup qualifying match against Scotland.

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Paranoia in heat of the cold war

The Soviet pilot who shot down a Korean airliner in 1983 is convinced the plane was on a spying mission. **Michael Gordon** in Moscow reports

GENNADY Osipovich holds up his thick hands to show how, 13 years ago, he manoeuvred his SU-15 fighter to blast a Korean 747 airliner out of the sky. It was the morning of September 1, 1983, and Lieutenant-Colonel Osipovich's unit had scrambled from its secret base on Sakhalin Island to investigate an intruder. He intercepted the unidentified plane about 95 miles from Soviet airspace. After trailing it for more than 60 miles, he zoomed alongside to take a look. "I was just next to him, on the same altitude, 150 to 200 metres away," he recalls. He recognised the aircraft as a civilian type of plane. "I saw two rows of windows and knew that this was a Boeing.

I knew this was a civilian plane. But for me this meant nothing. It is easy to turn a civilian type of plane into one for military use. Minutes later, he fired two air-to-air missiles, sending Korean Airlines Flight 007 crashing into the sea, killing 269 people and causing what President Boris Yeltsin has described as the greatest tragedy of the cold war. Thirteen years on, debate still rages over whether the Soviet air force showed a reckless disregard for human life and why the Korean jet, en route from Anchorage to Seoul, was so far off course. Speaking at the weekend, Mr Osipovich insisted that the jetliner was on a spying mission and that there were no civilians on board. For years, experts have debated whether the Soviet pilot

was aware he was downing a civilian plane or had mistaken the 747 for an RC-135 United States military reconnaissance plane. But Mr Osipovich said he had no doubts that he was dealing with a civilian plane. Viewed through the prism of the cold war, he treated the plane not as a lost commercial airliner but as part of a notorious mission against the Soviet homeland. Mr Osipovich also revealed that, in the heat of the moment, he did not provide a full description of the intruder to ground controllers. "They did not ask me." He did, however, tell them that the plane had blinking lights, which he took as an indication that it could be a transport plane. Disputing reports that he urged his superiors to be cau-

tious, Mr Osipovich said he was prepared to shoot the plane down as soon as it crossed into Soviet airspace and still regrets that he was not allowed to do so. "I asked the ground what to do," he said. "They got scared and told me to force him to land, and this was our big mistake." If the plane had crashed on Soviet territory, he said, the authorities would have recovered proof that it was on a spying mission. To try to force the plane down he fired his cannon three times, shooting off 520 rounds. But the shells did not contain tracers and were not visible at night. He said the Korean pilots still should have seen the gun flashing and also noticed when the SU-15 flashed its lights. That, he said, was a signal to follow to his base or risk destruction. "I would have landed him on our airfield, and I wanted it very much," he said. "Do you think I wanted to kill him? I would rather have shared a bottle with him."



But he did not try to make radio contact, saying that there was no time and that the intruder would not have understood Russian. Time was running out. The

intruder would soon have passed over Sakhalin Island into international airspace. Worried that it might get away, the Soviet pilot became concerned when it slowed down. He took this as an indication that the Korean jet had seen him and was trying to evade him. He descended, pulled behind the intruder and fired the two missiles. Flight 007 was only 20 to 25 seconds from neutral territory, he said. Now aged 62, with a thick shock of white hair, Mr Osipovich, like many former military men, relies on a small pension, about \$20 a month. But with the government strapped for cash, he cannot recall the last time he received it. He is still treated with respect. At a recent seminar in Moscow at the left-leaning newspaper *Trud*, he was toasted at a reception. Poor, and vilified in most of the Western world, he is proud of his fame. Downing a glass of vodka, he said: "I am a lucky guy." — *New York Times*.

World news in brief

Oil-for-food dealing set to start today

THE United Nations yesterday authorised the start of the long-delayed oil-for-food deal which will allow Iraq to make a limited return to the world oil market for the first time since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Under the deal, concluded in May but held up by disputes over implementation, Iraq will be able to sell \$2 billion-worth of oil over six months to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods to help offset the effects of sanctions, starting today. Both the oil sales and the purchase of humanitarian supplies are subject to close UN monitoring. If all goes well, the Security Council may renew the deal. The secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, gave the go-ahead in a report to the Security Council. — *Reuters, New York*.

Medal for war crimes suspect

THE Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, awarded a medal at the weekend to a Bosnian Croat general indicted as a war crimes suspect and in custody awaiting trial in the Hague, a Bosnian Croat spokesman said yesterday. General Tihomir Blaskic was indicted in connection with alleged massacres of Muslims by Croats under his command in central Bosnia. His wife accepted the medal on his behalf at a ceremony in Posusje in Croat-controlled south-western Bosnia. Gen Blaskic was one of about 50 Bosnian Croats commended by Mr Tudjman for their role in offensives to recapture Serb-held southern Croatia and large chunks of western Bosnia in summer 1995, said the spokesman. — *AP, Zagreb*.

Belgian deputy PM cleared

BELGIUM'S centre-left coalition government appeared to have weathered a political storm last night after the socialist deputy prime minister, Elio di Rupo, was largely cleared of allegations that he had sex with under-16s. A report by investigators from the supreme court concluded that the allegations against Mr di Rupo, made by a discredited single witness, were without foundation. But they also concluded that they had not had sufficient time to study further undisclosed allegations made last week. — *Stephen Bates, Brussels*.

Euthanasia law faces reverse

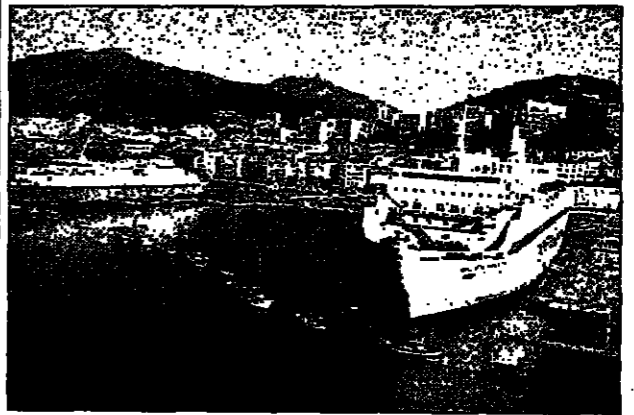
AUSTRALIA'S federal house of representatives yesterday passed overwhelmingly a bill to override a Northern Territory law that permits doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. The Northern Territory's legislature was last year the first in the world to enact a law that sanctions euthanasia. The proposed bill must now be passed by the senate before it can become law. — *AP, Canberra*.

Russians block nuclear plan

RUSSIA'S fledgling environmental movement scored a significant victory yesterday when more than 80 per cent of voters in the impoverished northern Kostroma region rejected a plan to build a nuclear power station. The referendum was the first of its kind in a country where major capital projects are imposed from above. It was the result of a 20-year battle waged against the local administration and the ministry of atomic energy by environmentalists and ordinary people. — *David Hearst, Moscow*.

Defectors arrive in Seoul

IN THE largest single defection from North Korea since the Korean war, a family of 17, including five children and a pregnant woman, reached the South yesterday. An arduous 49-day journey had taken them through China and Hong Kong. They led the impoverished communist country because they were hungry, they said. — *AP, Seoul*.



Fishing boats linked by cables block ferries at Ajaccio, Corsica, yesterday on the seventh day of a blockade to demand a cut in taxes for fishermen. Traffic between the island and France is paralysed. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANCIS MATTEI

EU to rule on mutant maize

THE European Commission will decide next week whether to allow the import of genetically modified maize from the United States after EU environment ministers, meeting in Brussels, failed to reach agreement. Three scientific committees are due to report to the Commission by the end of the week about whether the maize — which has a marker gene resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin — poses a potential risk to human health. It is thought likely that the Commission will allow the import of the maize, which will form about 0.05 per cent of the US crop this year, but restrict it to animal fodder. Member states are split on the issue, with only France saying it wants to grow genetically modified maize itself. — *Stephen Bates, Brussels*.

Swiss to study Nazi finances

SWITZERLAND'S parliament cleared the way yesterday for a federal decree to study financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth in Swiss banks during the Holocaust. Parliament's upper chamber paved the way to passage by withdrawing a controversial amendment giving individuals who feared being mangled in the study the right to ask the Swiss high court to block their names from being published. The decree was expected to win final approval in one more vote by both chambers and come into effect by Friday. — *Reuters, Bern*.

Peace prize winners split

EAST TIMOR'S Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Belo and resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta, co-winners of the 1996 Nobel peace prize, held separate news conferences at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo yesterday in what Mr Ramos Horta hinted was a result of pressure by the Indonesian government on Bishop Belo, who will be awarded the prize at a ceremony today with the activist. — *Reuters, Oslo*.

Taliban bans paper bags

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban has banned paper bags under a campaign to impose pure Islamic law. "We respect paper, whether it is written on or not. We have announced that people should not use paper for bags or put paper on the rubbish tip," said the Taliban's acting information minister, Amir Khan Mutsaqi, yesterday. "People should use plastic bags instead of paper." They said there might be some words from the Holy Koran or Arabic writing on the paper which might then be thrown away and that would be an insult to the Holy Koran, said one trader. Shopkeepers said they had had a run on toilet paper from customers unsure how far the ban would go. — *Reuters, Kabul*.



A worker at a tractor factory in Belgrade waits yesterday for the signal to strike and take to the streets in support of the protests, but the poor organisation of the unions meant he never left the factory grounds. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRAUCHLI

Milosevic caught in vibrant web of new technology

Chris Hedges in Belgrade

WHEN Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, faced with large anti-government demonstrations, tried to shut down the last vestiges of an independent news media last week, he unwittingly spawned a technological revolt. Tens of thousands of students, professors, professionals and journalists connected their computers to Internet web sites abroad when the government closed independent radio station B-92 for two days. The station made digital broadcasts in Serbian, Croatian and English using audio Internet links, and using its web site, continuing reporting on the protests, which were set off by the government's annulment of municipal elections won by the opposition. B-92, which has been the main source of news here, was allowed to broadcast again as the government eased its response to the protests and hinted that it might reconsider the annulment of the elections. But the experience has made protestors aware of the tremendous potential at their fingertips. Independent journalists have pushed forward with plans to bypass government transmitters, news agencies and television studios, using the Internet to carry

their message across Serbia and to the outside world. "In the early days of the protests, before the international media arrived, B-92 was the only way most people could hear about what was happening," said Sasa Vucinic, managing director of the Media Development Loan Fund. "The moment the radio signal was cut, the Internet took over. Journalists connected their computers to Internet web sites abroad when the government closed independent radio

The drive to close us down has given us a tool to expand our audience' station B-92 for two days. The station made digital broadcasts in Serbian, Croatian and English using audio Internet links, and using its web site, continuing reporting on the protests, which were set off by the government's annulment of municipal elections won by the opposition. B-92, which has been the main source of news here, was allowed to broadcast again as the government eased its response to the protests and hinted that it might reconsider the annulment of the elections. But the experience has made protestors aware of the tremendous potential at their fingertips. Independent journalists have pushed forward with plans to bypass government transmitters, news agencies and television studios, using the Internet to carry their message across Serbia and to the outside world. "In the early days of the protests, before the international media arrived, B-92 was the only way most people could hear about what was happening," said Sasa Vucinic, managing director of the Media Development Loan Fund. "The moment the radio signal was cut, the Internet took over. Journalists connected their computers to Internet web sites abroad when the government closed independent radio station B-92 for two days. The station made digital broadcasts in Serbian, Croatian and English using audio Internet links, and using its web site, continuing reporting on the protests, which were set off by the government's annulment of municipal elections won by the opposition. B-92, which has been the main source of news here, was allowed to broadcast again as the government eased its response to the protests and hinted that it might reconsider the annulment of the elections. But the experience has made protestors aware of the tremendous potential at their fingertips. Independent journalists have pushed forward with plans to bypass government transmitters, news agencies and television studios, using the Internet to carry

'Vampire' woman-killer jailed in Poland

Reuters in Warsaw

ONE of Poland's most baffling serial murder trials ended yesterday with the conviction of Leszek Pekalski — dubbed "The Vampire" — for the killing of one woman and his acquittal on 18 other murder charges. A court in Slupsk, north-west Poland, jailed the former bricklayer for 25 years for a single sex murder in 1987, ruling that the jail term should start only after he has been treated in a psychiatric hospital. During a three-year investigation, Pekalski at first admitted almost 70 murders, then cut the number to 14 and finally denied any killings and alleged that police had pressurised him into making false confessions. He faced 17 charges of murder, two of rape and one for the abduction of a baby who later died of cold. In all but one of the cases, his lawyers successfully pointed to a lack of confident witnesses. Prosecutors said Pekalski had attacked his alleged victims, mostly women, with exceptional cruelty — beating and kicking them, strangling them with his hands and items of clothing, using knives or wooden clubs, and sexually assaulting them.

East knows a four-letter word for peace

In the second of two articles on Nato expansion, **Ian Traynor** surveys the frontrunners for admission as foreign ministers draw up a shortlist today

WHEN it comes to the future security of Europe, the east Europeans have little time for the alphabet soup of OSCEs, FFPs, and WEUs within which the issues have been endlessly debated these past six years. Condemned by history and geography to occupy the vulnerable areas between the European giants, Germany and Russia, eastern Europe seeks the answers to its security dilemmas in one acronym only — Nato. They view the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as the most effective and successful military alliance ever and they want in. They do not want to be fobbed off by partnerships for peace, or other Western schemes aimed at appeasing the Kremlin's resistance to the West's advance into the former Warsaw Pact. "The Czech Republic is convinced that expanding Nato and the European Union will further the security of us all," said the Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, this month. "We intend to become members of both organisations and we are prepared to participate fully in their activities."



at which formal offers of membership negotiations are to be issued. The frontrunners for early entry are Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. Under the rule of Vladimir Meciar, Slovakia's commitment to democracy is seen as questionable. All four were in the Warsaw Pact. Slovenia, which was not but part of Yugoslavia, has moved in just

behind the other three. The US, which has invested in Croatia's military to balance Serbian power in the Balkans, may support Zagreb's bid and gain German backing. But this is a more distant prospect. Further south, Bulgaria is at present seen as a non-starter. Romania, by contrast, is strategically important. Its recent peaceful and democratic change of government away from the former communists who replaced the Ceausescu tyranny, the prospects of better relations with neighbouring Hungary, and hopes for reduced ethnic tension with Hungarians, are boosting Bucharest's chances of eventual entry. The three Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, which have membership, but not only are they bound in by Russian territory, they would also be the first former Soviet republics in Nato. In an attempt to sweeten the pill for Russia, it is likely there will be neither foreign troops nor stationing of nuclear weapons on the territory of new members. Of the new Nato trio, Poland is the key strategic consideration — an asset for the West and the main reason for Russian opposition to expansion. It is by far the biggest army, and occupies the ideal tank country of the north European plain between Germany and Russia.

سكرا من الامم

Invisible hands that hold the reins

In the second of three articles in advance of this week's Chinese appointment of a new chief executive for Hong Kong, **Andrew Higgins** looks at where the real power will lie after Britain hands over the territory on June 30 next year



Pro-democracy activists opposing China's plan to set up a provisional legislature after the handover next year are blocked by police in Hong Kong yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: CLAUDIO CORTESE

A LONG the fetid, wire-tangled corridor of a low-rent Hong Kong high-rise, a rusty security grille shields the deliberations of traditional Chinese doctors who meet to share secrets about acupuncture, anti-ners and herbs. Also shared is a secret about the calligrapher whose work occupies a place of honour on the wall inside. It bears the signature of Zhou Nan, the mirthless cadre who heads the Hong Kong branch of the Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto diplomatic mission. But, explains an elderly Chinese from the mainland who asks not to be named, Mr Zhou graces the wall here in another capacity: he is the head of an underground Communist Party network in Hong Kong and the nearby Portuguese enclave of Macao. From ramshackle offices like this to the boardroom of the Bank of China extends the

influence of an organisation that both Britain and China pretend has no presence in Hong Kong but which, in just 203 days, will be the territory's ultimate master. Unlike the selection of Hong Kong's post-colonial governor, a predictable process that climaxes tomorrow with the choice of a Shanghai-born, Liverpool-educated shipping magnate, the future role of the party is uncertain. "I do not know what their plans are, whether they will be legalised or whether they need to be legalised," said Tung Chee-hwa, the man certain to become chief executive. Present in Hong Kong since the 1920s, but barred from any legal existence by a 1949 Societies Ordinance, the colony's Communist Party is so secretive it disguises its name. It calls itself The Hong Kong and Macao Work Committee, abbreviated to Work-Com, or *Gongwei* in Chinese. "Because it is so myster-

ious the Communist Party in Hong Kong makes people very anxious," admits Shiu Sin-por, a pro-China stalwart who says the party will not impose "political commissars" in the police or civil service but will act as Beijing's eyes and ears. Civil servants, he believes, will not be perturbed. "People typing up secret memos, described the party in a book written from exile in California. He says it had 6,000 members in 1983. Alarmed to find it dominated by "old and poorly educated" zealots, Mr Xu set up a group to "work among the middle and upper classes". He does not identify his recruits. "There are bound to be Communist Party members

renamed "chief executive" and relocated away from Government House — too colonial and too much bad feng-shui, say local experts — but will not, in theory, lose its power. Chinese organs offering advice on how it should be exercised will be legion. The proliferation of Chinese power centres has even begun to reshape the skyline, where

'There are bound to be Communist Party members in Hong Kong after '97. What is important is whether they interfere or not'

reports about them would be nothing new. They expected that in the past too," he says. Estimates of the number of Work Committee members range up to 20,000 — many of whom are named in secret special branch files awaiting incineration or shipment back to Britain. Xu Jiatun, Mr Zhou's purged predecessor as head of Xinhua and of the Work-Com-

mission, says the Xinhua News Agency should retain control over mainland interests. Others disagree. "Xinhua is a product of a special history. It is a mishmash of various roles — government and party — and will undergo tremendous change," said Mr Shiu, who runs a think-tank funded by Beijing. Mr Tung, the shipping

deputy director and party apparatchik, denounced a legislator's call to discuss the issue as "ignorant and stupid". But while not ready to go public, the Work Committee is poised to enter the inner sanctum of government after decades of British surveillance and harassment. Mr Tung, who has had strong ties with the pro-China camp since Beijing bailed out his shipping firm in 1985, is expected to bring mainland business interests such as the Bank of China into his cabinet or executive council. This copies the pattern of past British governors who stacked their cabinets with British taipans and bankers. But it would also mean the entry of the Communist Party. The local heads of the Bank of China, China Resources, China Travel Service and other mainland conglomerates are members of the Work Committee, according to Mr Xu. Frederick Fung, a moderate

Sacked ANC minister may form party



Bantu Holomisa sounds out support for a new party

NELSON Mandela's African National Congress is facing the first challenge to its unity with the announcement by a sacked junior minister, Bantu Holomisa, that he is considering forming a rival political party. Mr Holomisa, a former homeland leader, was one of the most popular figures in the ANC before his expulsion. His allies include President Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie. Gen Holomisa announced yesterday that he was abandoning a Supreme Court

action aimed at forcing the ANC to reinstate him as a member and would instead organise a national conference to consider the formation of a new party. The general was expelled, after being fired by Mr Mandela as deputy minister of the environment and tourism, for accusing a cabinet minister, Stella Sigcau, of taking a bribe from the controversial casino boss Sol Kerzner. He also accused the ANC of accepting money from Mr Kerzner, a charge which was eventually conceded. The former leader of the Transkei said yesterday that he had made the decision after a meeting with Mr Mandela last week, at which the

president allegedly warned him that if he gained readmission to the ANC he would be "crushed". Gen Holomisa said that in these circumstances there would be no point in re-joining. He had been under pressure for some time to take the lead in forming a new party and would organise a consultative conference on the issue in the new year. Accusing the ANC of abandoning its democratic principles, he said: "Strong views have been expressed that I should launch a new party that would protect civil liberties and ensure that there are checks and balances in our new democratic order." Whether a serious chal-

lenge can be mounted to the ANC so soon after its success in liberating South Africa is questionable. But the threat comes at an awkward time. Recently the national executive ousted supporters by forcing the resignation of the Free State region's popular premier, Patrick "Terror" Leoka, to defuse a row over his attempts to fire members of the provincial cabinet for alleged corruption. At the weekend, the ANC in the Northern Province ignored Mr Mandela's efforts to secure the unpopular re-election of their own popular regional premier, Ngako Ramathodi, as provincial party chairman. An ANC senator narrowly won the poll.

Ghanaian is tipped for top UN post

MARK TRAN in New York

KOFI ANNAN of Ghana, a 30-year veteran of the United Nations, yesterday emerged as the uneasy frontrunner to lead the international organisation as the Security Council began canvassing views on a list of African hopefuls to succeed the secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Mr Annan, aged 58, head of UN peacekeeping, is considered by UN officials to have the inside track for the job. He is liked by the US, France, Britain and Russia, although

he might face problems with China, nervous about the prospect of having a secretary-general too close to the US. These five all have veto rights over the choice of secretary-general. The US last month blocked Mr Boutros-Ghali on the grounds that he was too sluggish on streamlining the UN bureaucracy, but most diplomats believe that the real reason is that he was too independent. The other three candidates are Hamid Alagibi, former prime minister of Niger, Amara Essy, foreign minister of the Ivory Coast, and Ahmed

Ndasse of Senegal, and Olara Otunnu, who heads the International Peace Academy, a New York think-tank. But Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa, revealed at the weekend that he had been told by President Jacques Chirac that France would veto the Tanzanian because he does not speak French. The proceedings are being criticised as messy. African delegates have been embarrassed by the disorganised approach to the process, particularly the failure to rally behind a single alternative to Mr Boutros-Ghali.

Dispute mars Gulf summit

KATHY EVANS in Doha, Qatar

A DISPUTE over a string of tiny, potentially oil and gas rich islands threatened to shatter the facade of unity between the Arab Gulf states yesterday. The meeting of Gulf leaders, held annually to show regional unity, ended in Doha with a blistering attack by the Qatari foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim, on neighbouring Bahrain. He accused Bahrain of conducting threatening military exercises, interfering in the emirate's affairs, and trying to take advantage of the dispute between the Qatari emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and the father he deposed, Sheikh Khalifa. Waving a letter at journalists, the Qatari minister claimed that Bahrain had attempted to force the former emir to sign a pledge to the Bahraini ruler, Sheikh Issa, saying that he would relinquish all claims to the disputed Fawar islands if he returned to power in Qatar. The disputed islands lie 300 metres off the west coast of Qatar and can be reached on foot at low tide. But Bahrain claims that the local fishermen have historically paid allegiance to their ruling sheiks. In 1997, after a series of clashes, Britain awarded the islands to Bahrain. Billions of pounds could be at stake. The islands lie just

north of Qatar's main oilfield, the Dukkan. Because of the dispute, the areas around Hawar have not been explored for 25 years, but they are believed to contain oil and gas. If developed, the field could transform Bahrain's future. With its oil reserves dwindling, the state lives largely on Saudi hand-outs. The Gulf Co-operation Council has not only failed to resolve the quarrel, but has failed to contain it. Qatar is pursuing its case at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The Qatari minister went on to say that the emir was planning to lunch today with his father in Rome. But he refused to give details of any reconciliation between the two. Earlier this year, the emir began legal proceedings in eight countries accusing his father of misappropriating state funds.

Burma troops clash with rioters

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE in Bangkok

BURMESE troops and riot police clashed before dispersing stone-throwing students through Rangoon yesterday in a vain attempt to contain one of the boldest shows of defiance since the crackdown that brought the military junta to power eight years ago. The clashes occurred after several hundred students, continuing nearly a week of demonstrations, marched towards the US embassy, holding a picture of the independence hero Aung San Suu Kyi and chanting "give us freedom" and "open the

schools". Riot police halted the march and then, backed by troops on personnel carriers, started to pursue students, who responded by throwing stones before dispersing down side streets and alleys. Students said last night tension was still high in the capital where jittery authorities have imposed a range of security measures. Rangoon Institute of Technology and the university, the scene of scuffles and stone-throwing on Saturday, remained closed. The junta reportedly shut boys' high schools yesterday and sealed off roads. But students show no sign of relenting. "The situation is fluid, it's more unstable than it took power," a diplomat in Rangoon remarked. The students, whose protest began after police beat three students involved in a tea-shop brawl in October, have steered clear of broader political issues. But the junta made it clear yesterday it believes it is dealing with a political challenge incited by Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy and it has reportedly warned her against leaving her house. "We have evidence that not only some NLD members but also [exiled student militants] and elements of the Burma

Communist Party are deeply involved in this unrest," a military intelligence official said. Ms Suu Kyi repudiated the charge as "absolutely ridiculous", adding that authorities "should be trying to deal with their problems instead of trying to find someone to blame". The junta has by its own standards acted leniently towards the students, detaining some 800 after a demonstration last week and several hundred at the weekend but releasing most of them within hours. But the use of troops and police to close campuses 10 months into the academic year appears to have increased student grievances.

Jordanian spies spin on-line web

Intelligence agents are displaying a new openness, writes **Dominic Evans**

BASHAR DAHABRA's computer business was just starting to take off when the phone call came through. Mr Dahabra, an all-powerful Jordanian intelligence Department (GID) officer, rushed to his headquarters. When he got there the GID officer had just one question. Could Mr Dahabra arrange to hook Jordanian intelligence services on to an Internet web-site? Two months later, on November 11, the GID launched its Internet home page (<http://www.arab.net/gid>), promising tantalising glimpses into its operation and an e-mail address to anyone who wanted to get in touch. Mr Dahabra said the project was the first in the Arab world where such openness is rare and the image of intelligence services is of a ruthless and invisible Big Brother, terrifying all and accountable to none. The result is a strait-laced guide to Jordan, spiced with a few tidbits about the GID, an organisation with such control over Jordanians' lives they need its clearance to get a passport or take a job in the public sector. "We have adopted a new policy of openness which we believe will better enhance our ability to serve our people," says a welcoming note from the GID director, Sameeh al-Buteikhi. "Naturally, however, due to the nature of

our work there exist certain restraints upon the type of information that we will be able to provide through this medium." Few details are provided but the GID does shed some light on its philosophy. The department lists 24 Jordanian political parties. Those represented in cabinet it describes as "politically moderate". Others are dismissed as leftist, Islamist, or Arab nationalist. The only staff named are the seven directors who have run the GID since its founding in 1964. There are no pictures of officials, nor of the GID base, said to be a complex in west Amman. The satirical weekly *Abed Rebo* hinted at dark motives behind the Internet project. "An agent in every house" ran its headline on a story suggesting Jordanians were being turned into a nation of cyber-spooks, informing on their neighbours by Internet. It urged readers to post these questions to the GID: "Will this new service offer the citizen his right to be interrogated and kicked around via the Internet?" "Why do you allow citizens to scream in their cells, but not shout on the streets?" "How many days do you need to get a camel to confess to being a dinosaur?" The GID, answering an e-mail query from Reuters, said it had received a "flood of congratulatory messages" on its Internet page. "It is not our intention to have an open forum for discussion through this medium, but rather to be of service to Jordanians as well as others on a one-to-one basis," it added. There were 25,000 visitors to the page in its first week. — Reuters

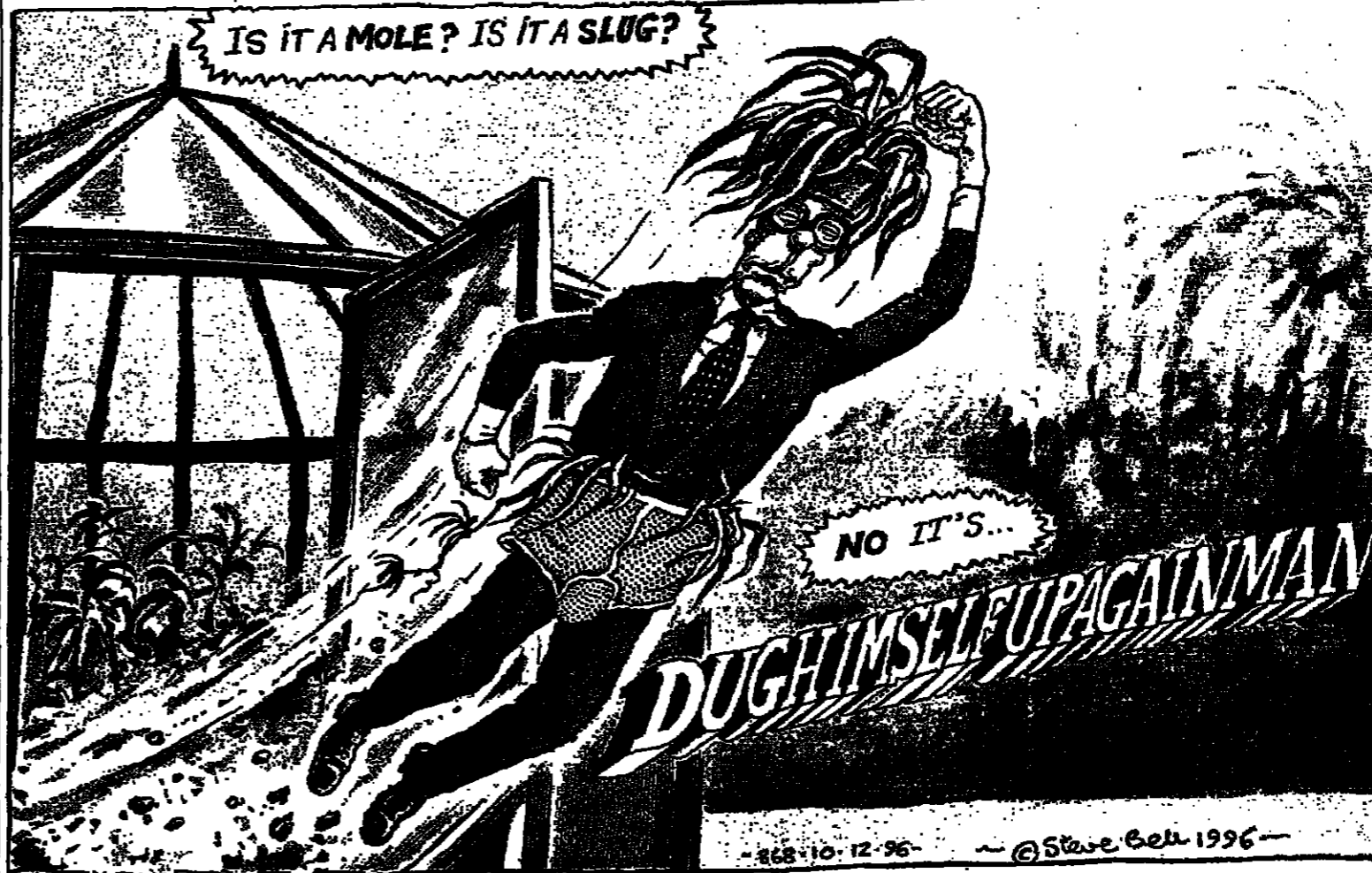
You don't have to make drastic changes to obtain a healthy lifestyle. The smallest, easiest changes — like chewing gum, drinking tea or eating the odd carrot — can do a lot to steer you away from a host of health problems.

Health G2 page 12

Free trade's high price
Singapore is not just about lower tariff barriers

THE PROBLEM with the continuing dialogue about free trade — the centrepiece of this week's first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore — is that there is too much pressure for abandoning tariff barriers and not enough discussion about the level playing field on which free trade ought to operate. Of course we are, nearly all of us, in favour of lower tariff barriers these days. A succession of long-drawn out trade negotiations culminating in the recently completed Uruguay Round has increased the scale of international trade with potential benefits for rich and poor countries. The trouble is that the West, and the United States in particular, has too many of the bargaining counters. The powerful US lobbyists can storm into Singapore demanding free trade in the sectors where it has a strong advantage (like telecommunications, information technology and agriculture) while the West drags its heels over implementation of the existing Multi-Fibre Arrangement — one of the few provisions of the Uruguay Round that opened up Western markets to low-cost textile imports from the developing world.

should be linked with the obligations proposed by the government-driven WTO. If freer world trade and social responsibility were indivisible, then the successor to the Uruguay Round might even acquire a touch of street cred it has never had before. The American Farm Bureau sounds highly convincing when it complains that China has for years refused to buy wheat from the US because it says American grain is contaminated with a fungus. But it declines to add that the US, which earns a cool \$60 billion from agricultural exports, operates unacceptable subsidies of her own even though the US lobbyists argue that since they are subsidies for land rather than production they don't offend the WTO rules. The US is right to point out that, because of free trade, the cost of a transatlantic telephone call originating in the US is two cents a minute compared with two dollars a minute for calls originating from the protected European market. There is no doubt that cheap telephone calls and cheaper computers would be a galvanising force not just for Europe but for developing countries as well. There's just one snag. Guess who makes most of the equipment for the burgeoning information technology markets? The US and Europe failed to agree an information technology pact yesterday that would eliminate tariffs by the millennium. Europe wants things like fibre optic cables, capacitors and photocopiers to be included, while Washington wants them excluded. Some, like Malaysia, refused to accept zero tariffs by 2000. Like other developing countries they are afraid of opening up their own fledgling technology markets to the vastly superior prowess of the US. The US doesn't seem to be demanding reform in areas where it doesn't have a strong comparative advantage. Curious that.



Letters to the Editor

Race that's littered with obstacles

THE Essay by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (Black looks and white lies, December 7) was not entirely right. The people of California did not "vote" to ban gender and race quotas in government. Quotas do exist in the US but they are very limited. Nonetheless, the fact of their existence has done great PR damage to the cause of equal opportunities, helped along by some of the excesses perpetrated at the fringes.

YASMIN Alibhai-Brown throws away much of the force of her piece by arguing that anxieties about the corrosion of a British cultural identity need to be taken seriously. Racism and nationalism are first cousins. The one cannot be attacked by making concessions to the other. Britishness is the name of state power. It had its last and most comprehensively unattractive outing when Mrs Thatcher used it to take on a towering military dictatorship in the South Atlantic. Her example was soon followed by English football fans on the terraces of Europe.

its indelible national identity with any legitimacy whatsoever. Anxiety about its survival is a very good sign. Tom Snow, Mundania Road, London SE22. YASMIN Alibhai-Brown highlights clandestine racism within employment practices and individuals' attitudes. Racial discrimination has been historically rampant in Britain. I am a member of the Tory European Group since 1986 when I was seeking a job as a print worker in Fleet Street. Their practices, then supported by the trade unions, were similar to those at Ford.

research in Britain is that all that this will do is allow a few middle-class blacks to disassociate themselves from their fellows. I am, of course, sad for these blacks and Asian middle classes that they should suffer discrimination at the higher levels and that they should be personally hurt. Frankly, however, this bears no comparison with the situation of those denied jobs altogether. I cannot see how making acceptance easier for mongered blacks and Asians in professional jobs and the fee-paying educational sector will help. It is surely absurd to offer this as a general solution to the problem of race relations in Britain. What it is is a plea for special treatment for those with education and money.

Dead keen on dissenters

IT is all too frequently the lot of left-wing Labour MPs to be vilified while alive, only to receive posthumous praise after they have departed. Such a fate has now befallen Konni Zilliacus (Follow the leader, December 9) because he once said something that every single Labour Party member would agree with, namely that "the worst possible Labour government is better than the best conceivable Conservative government". But would Gerald Kaufman have been so generous in his support of Zilliacus had he been present when this frequently dissenting MP was doing his best to ensure the very best possible Labour government? This is a fair question because disagreement and dissent over serious issues is all too often translated as being disloyal in the modern Labour Party. Gerald Kaufman's dissenting views on multilateral disarmament and the Common Market, when he was eloquently voicing them in the 1980s, did not earn him the opprobrium that is so often heaped upon Tony Blair's critics. Interestingly, Gerald also believes that "loyalty to the leadership really counts when the Party is in a weak and unpopular position" and continues by contrasting Michael Foot's honourable dissenting views with his support for Labour governments even when they were busy doing very unpopular things, such as offering support for the Americans in Vietnam.

The force that Milosevic fears

International criticism is important, but internal dissent vital

THE SERBIAN struggle has been drawn out and inconclusive, but it must soon come to the crunch. At the end of last week, the opposition forces thought they were celebrating a victory when their disputed election result in Belgrade was referred to the supreme court. But the judges found in favour of the government ruling which had set aside last month's victory by the Zedjono (Together) opposition coalition in the local elections. A number of judges in the supreme and lower courts had voiced support for the challenge, but the decision — reached with indecent speed — betrayed the heavy hand of President Slobodan Milosevic. The students may control the streets, but Slobocan still manipulate the seats.

ers felt obliged to treat him as such. His weakness arose not from the actual terms of the settlement, but from the evaporation of an atmosphere of perpetual war crisis which had helped him to maintain dictatorial power against all challengers. The current protest in the streets is based on a coalition of student and intelligentsia calling for free speech with a broader stratum of middle class opinion which complains of public corruption and private hardship. Over the past three weeks it has been an impressive performance, not least because of its relative restraint (eggs and a few stones rather than firebombs or worse). But it has failed to reach a critical mass comparable to that of the Czech velvet revolution — to which it has nonetheless been compared. The organisers are now threatening workers' strikes and marches, but yesterday's protest at a Belgrade tractor factory failed miserably when only a few hundred out of several thousands took part. The international community is hovering outside this crisis uncertainly. Mr Milosevic is the man who started the Bosnia tragedy; he is also the man who finished it. In the opposition coalition, only Vuk Draskovic appears fully committed to Dayton. But these calculations are futile in a situation so full of uncertainties. In the end Mr Milosevic will either be defeated or not by the internal forces against him. International criticism of his actions should be expressed fully and forcefully.

Strong family bonds for Caitlin

There are emotional risks: but the moral minority is wrong

THE CLINICAL research fellow at Oxford could not have been more unequivocal: "This is a solution to a tragic and rare medical problem which makes everybody happy and nobody unhappy." Alas, not everyone will be happy. The moral minority has already expressed its opposition to a woman acting as a surrogate mother for her daughter's child. They remain critical now that Britain's first surrogate grandmother, Edith Jones, has given birth. Dame Jill Knight, the Birmingham Conservative MP, declared: "My own feeling is that it's very strange for any child to be saddled with a mother who is its grandmother."

minute change of mind by the surrogate mother about giving up the baby — never arose. Edith Jones did not need to worry about losing touch with the baby she had carried. As its grandmother, she is guaranteed a lasting relationship. Her daughter, who was born without a womb but produced the eggs which were fertilised by her husband's sperm, is in no doubt about the debt she owes to her mother. Edith Jones, aged 51, put her own health at risk in acting as the surrogate mother. Older women face increased risks of high blood pressure, diabetes and varicose veins in pregnancy. Obviously there are emotional risks too but all the people involved were carefully counselled. Mrs Jones acknowledges her need to "stand back and not keep reminding my daughter of what I have done for her". Baby Caitlin, who will be told what happened, will be in no doubt over the strength of her family's bonds — or their love.

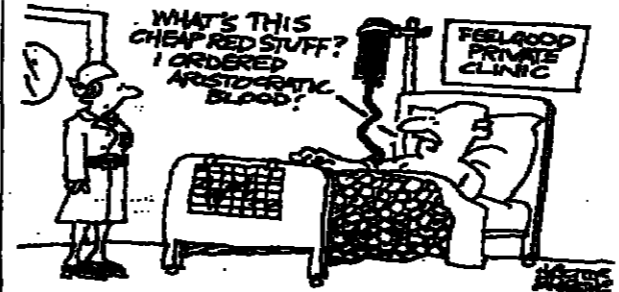
In brief

YOU are wrong to suggest that "John Maynard Keynes might not have approved" of the National Lottery (Stars mark reopening of Keynes's theatre, December 9). Keynes recommended "a weekly state lottery, less 10 per cent ... for the benefit of taxation". It would be "a cheering thing for the poorer members of the community to believe that there is at least the possibility of their getting a legacy". Such a shame then that the Government hasn't taken up other Keynesian ideas and has instead raised the odds of winning the lottery to one in the 190s to 14 million to one. Paul Bennett, St John's College, Oxford OX1 3JP.

THIRTY years ago I walked into my mother-in-law's house sporting my newly sprouted facial adornment (Letters, December 9). Her first words to me were: "Oh God, shave that fucking thing off." I now understand that it was absolutely nothing to do with swearing and that, somehow, my beard was synonymous with "throw half-penny". The question is: Do I apologise to my mother-in-law for having doubted her all these years or do I shave off my beard and stand as a Labour candidate? Dave Roberts, 14 Radcliffe Avenue, Chadwell, Derby DE21 6NN.

AM I to believe that Jonathan Dimbleby doesn't use mains electricity, a mobile phone or fill up the Range Rover at the local BP service station when retreating to the countryside (December 9)? This seems to be consistent and double standards worthy of the subject of his recent biography. Nigel Linford, 12 Windermere Court, East Drive, Brighton BN2 2BU.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We cannot acknowledge those not used.



It makes your blood boil

THE Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service has launched a campaign to highlight the need for blood over the coming festive period. A consultant haematologist, referring to the plasma exchange treatment of E. coli victims, states: "We can't meet these high demands without the generosity of donors. Meanwhile, stocks of blood and blood products in London and the South East have fallen so low that there is only about "half a day's supply

left". During these crises, as in the past, commercial hospitals and clinics continue to be supplied with blood at bargain-basement rates. One of Labour's first reforms must be an enquiry into the whole "business" of giving away blood to private hospitals and clinics. Either the supply must be stopped or else the charges increased to realistic levels, probably five times those of today. Jim Brunton, 7 Balderston Gardens, Edinburgh EH16 6TE.

Betrayal — but by whom?

HAROLD Pinter's tirade (First Periodic, December 4) against the United States approaches the ultimate in pitiful thinking. It is continuously perplexing why an assumed competent orator, rather narrow speciality — let's call it the stage — automatically endows one with the wit, scholarship, or minimum knowledge sufficient to indict a nation and its entire people. Wish that space would permit a line-by-line rebuttal. In America, at least — that most hateful and irresponsible of nations — national newspapers would not turn over their pages to such mindless ranting sprinkled with such illuminating delicacies as "shit" and "fuck". Any editor worthy of the name would address Mr Pinter's intellectual impoverishment and, at minimum, insist on a slightly more rigorous formulation. Ah, for the days of newspaper scrutiny! An American (and quite proud of it). Irving Jeffers, 30 Margaretta Terrace, London SW3 5NU.

NO one should doubt that it is right. We have recently come back from a year's stay in the US very conscious of the intensity of US nationalism. Every bill passed through the Senate or Congress is a "triumph (or victory) for the American people". Essentially, the only international news on the regular TV channels concerns Bosnia, simply because US troops are there. We soon found that democracy had been invented by America, had been given to the world by America and that, thanks to America, more people in the world now wanted democracy. We met very few people who thought any of this undesirable or worrying; it was, rather, believed to be normal. At the end of a year we left depressed as to where this self-delusion might lead. Les and Polly Allen, Taunton Lodge, Watfield Road, Walsham-le-Willows, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP81 8BD.

Hear them out

MISUNDERSTANDINGS arise because the category "war pensioners" includes former members of the armed forces who have not been in any war but have incurred disabilities or health impairment resulting from their service (Shabby and mean-minded, December 6). In some cases partial loss of hearing was caused by practice firing of their own weapons, not by high explosive or enemy action. They rightly receive compensation. I write as a war-disabled former Cabinet minister who served in the Army throughout the second world war. I was wounded three days after Tony Heath (Is this what he died for?, December 6), and then spent 14 months in hospital. In different battles, many of my comrades were killed or wounded near me. I recall an occasion when one of my soldiers suffered a perforated eardrum from close enemy shellbursts. He was correctly treated as a casualty requiring urgent medical attention. Lord Campbell of Croy, Vice-president, RNID, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.

THE worst possible government is surely one that stifles debate and crushes legitimate criticism, as Mrs Thatcher did during the 1980s. Many people got involved in the Labour movement precisely because they were alarmed at the damage that our democracy sustained during that period and saw democratic socialism as a bulwark against further encroachment. It is therefore disturbing to see a longstanding Labour MP advocating the sort of "manny knows best" elective despotism beloved of the Tory right. Simon McKeown, 10 Murchick House, Mookdee Street, London SE16 1BJ.

A Country Diary

CHEESHIRE: On one of the few days in the past fortnight free from rain, hail or snow, I walked out of the western end of the valley and followed the river across the fields, round the wide ox-bow bend towards the small weir which was a favourite fishing spot for the resident kingfisher. As I ambled along, at a naturalist's pace, it was good to see that the winter thrushes had settled in to gorge on the rich harvest of berries on the hawthorns — redwing, fieldfare, and blackbird flew up into a tall crack willow on the river bank, chattering away, waiting for me to pass by. I was walking over fields that had the history of the river written across them: several small ox-bow ponds were now some distance away from the present channel, and lines of trees marked where the bank once stood. I stopped at the edge of the largest pool and watched

a male mute swan, a Canada goose and several pairs of mallard move out from the shallows across towards the opposite bank. This could have been fatal for the mallard, because suddenly a fox broke cover from a large bramble patch on the far bank and trotted quickly away across the field into a small wood — it had probably been lying in wait for a meal to come within striking distance. When the fox looked its best, in a thick red brown winter coat, black-tipped ears, and a bushy tail held straight even as it ran for shelter. I eventually reached the small weir only to find the water full of silt washed down by the recent rains, and the current leaping through a cloud of spray. Fishing was out of the question even for an expert like the kingfisher. J M THOMPSON

Raphael Samuel

Keeper of our shared memory

FROM his base at Ruskin College, Oxford, the historian Raphael Samuel, who has died of cancer aged 62, transformed himself into an institution. For more than 30 years he was settled in his niche as a common-or-garden lecturer at that crucible of working class adult education and during that time he became an inescapable presence in the historical profession. A key figure in the birth of the radical History Workshop in the late 1960s, he was an academic who worked from his discipline's margins, but increasingly exerted pressure on its centre. So, by 1994 it was Samuel, marginal man who delivered the James Ford special lecture in English history at Oxford University.

Samuel loved obituaries. He read them with characteristic verve and engagement. He wrote many, pouring warmth and energy into them. He reflected on the form itself, curious about its historical origins; from hints in *RW Southern's The Making of the Middle Ages* he decided its true historical locus lay in medieval monastic life. He was fascinated by the current revival of obituaries turning, in this case, to a rather different source — the American cultural theorist Fredric Jameson's conceptions of postmodernity and of a "nostalgia for the present".

In part, his desire to unravel the secrets of the obituary amongst many which, at various times, possessed him. But in a larger sense the determination to commemorate the dead lay at the heart of his extraordinary, incomparable passion for the past.

In this he was like a man driven. Consistently unkept, he lived the life of the mind, while physically possessing the air of an insomniac and a metabolism which seemed impatient to burn up the calories the moment they entered his body. I always thought of him as more diminutive than he actually was, pitted against odds larger than he. He was a chaotic, bohemian Prometheus in the public with an unshakable sense of self, dedicated to retrieving for all manner of people their memories and their dignity.

Yet for all his activism, the idea that his own life should widely be commemorated would have seemed to him a little shocking, or improper. The origins of this reticence, and of much else in the life of Raphael Samuel, lie in his youthful commitment to communism and specifically the Communist Party of Great Britain.

"Commitment" here only weakly conveys the fervour

with which he embraced the movement. In a celebrated series of essays published in *New Left Review* in 1965 — at a moment when British communism was on the point of unravelling — he attempted to explain to a younger, more laid-back generation the interior emotional life of the true believer. "To be a communist," he wrote, "was to have a complete social identity".

He was, in the 1940s, a schoolboy communist growing up in relative impoverishment. He shared the essential intellectual world with his mother to whom, for Christmas 1960, he gave a copy of *In Defence of Materialism* by the "father of Russian Marxism", Georgy Plekhanov. He was becoming a young activist, making his own the communist neighbourhoods in north London, St Pancras in particular. During the war years he spent some time in Slough, west of London, the trading estate where his mother was working and organising.

He read the *Daily Worker* *Football Annual*. He learned *The Tractor Song* in Russian. The first movie he saw recounted the heroic role of children in the Russian revolution of 1905. While still at school in the late 1940s, he joined with his elders who had formed the justly renowned historians' group

world". Putting himself back together again, and reconstructing from the debris a political or moral justification for the study of history, he demanded an intellectual journey, conducted by him with a curious mix of imagination and intransigence, intellectual sophistication and self-declared theoretical naivety.

He became a member of the group centred around the *Universities Left Review*, which was to become the *New Left Review* in 1960 and within which he was a key mover. At the end of the 1950s he was also a co-founder of London's Partisan Coffee House in Soho, the new left's short-lived contribution to the coffee bar boom.

In place of the Party and its cadres, there emerged a more democratic — and modest — conception of "the people" or "the popular" for whom, and to whom, historians should speak. In place of scriptural truth handed down by the Party, there arose a more imaginative mode of writing encouraging people to think for themselves about the world as a historical place and challenging that which seemed ordained by nature to be permanent. But Samuel's original cast of mind was still evident: obsessive, driven, and — for all its populism — eccentric, a mentality strangely

askew from the imperatives of a modern culture. Conventionally, reputations of prestigious historians derive from the books they write and their silent elevation through academic hierarchies. On neither count, for Samuel like the innocent child, could Raphael Samuel have claimed even a look-in. His first single-authored book *Theatres of Memory* appeared when he was touching 60 — a preposterous way to conduct oneself according to the later norms of academic performance. Far from rising through the ranks and heading for all the pomp of a professorship, he was happy in his chosen milieu of adult education at Ruskin, and genuinely unimpressed by anything which might smack of careerism. Only earlier this year, in March, was he finally persuaded to apply for a chair. He moved to the University of East London to launch a new centre for research into East End life. It developed a lifelong interest which had already registered in the marvellous oral history biography which in 1981 he

had coaxed out of the East End criminal, Arthur Harding, *East End Underworld*.

Samuel undermined the professional mysteries of the archive, seeing in primary research the potential for democratising historical study. At Ruskin he was fond of exhorting untrained students to immerse themselves straight away in the sources. When he lectured, he was in the habit of bringing the archive with him, first in briefcases and shopping-bags, later in a natter array of shoulder-bags like a grocer's magician he would pick, as if at random, from a profusion of files and books and scraps of paper, nipping from pile to pile, delighted to share the fruits of his research with his audience.

From this conviction about the democratic properties of historical study emerged the History Workshop. Initially this harnessed the Ruskin ethos of "worker-historians" to the more cosmopolitan intellectual spirit, exemplified in what was then the mildly subversive idea of social history, which could be found at Oxford's St Antony's College. In March 1967 the first History Workshop meeting was advertised, "A Day with the Chartists".

The History Workshop was a product of the late 1960s but it has flourished since. Annual meetings, particularly in the early days, were exuberant affairs, serious-minded carnivals of enthusiasts for history. Regional networks mushroomed. In 1976 the first issue of *History Workshop Journal* was published. This was inspired by a small group of intellectuals which had emerged from Ruskin, from Oxford, and from the History Workshop networks. The journal was established on militantly democratic principles which — in a very different environment — later generations still strive to uphold. By the presence of Raphael Samuel and of his erstwhile partner, Anna Davin, were formative and profound.

To read the run of the journal, or to go through the 30 or 40 volumes published in the book-inprint which accompanied the journal's early years, is to witness the growth of the historian's mind. In the editorials, countless contributions, "enthusiasms" and reports, can be found the testament not only to Samuel's intellectual will but to his conception of what history, democratised, might look like.

This massive intellectual output, with every word open to collective scrutiny did not encourage conventional courtesies. What made it happen, as it did for similar ventures, was an intellectual, political and emotional turmoil.



A life of the mind... consistently unkept, physically Samuel possessed the air of an insomniac STEFAN WALLGREN

Invariably, Raphael Samuel was mild-mannered and the last to break. When confronted, a bewildered innocence crossed his face. But he was deeply serious about his ideas, with a conviction which came to him from his communist inheritance. Inevitably, with such a vast output, there was sometimes a lack of discrimination. Those he worked with he charmed, and sent wild in equal measure.

In 1994, as well as delivering the James Ford lecture, he published the first volume of his *Theatres of Memory: Past and Present in Contemporary Culture*. It was a series which aimed to look at the way the past is active in the present. That first volume

carried him along the heritage trail and into domestic DIY, inspiring him to conduct a compendious inventory of all manner of contemporary retro-chic.

Through the 1960s his intellectual concerns had shifted from reconstructing the lost experiences of the powerless to a concern with the mechanisms by which the past is remembered, dramatised and argued about in the present. His work took on a hue more familiar in cultural studies than in conventional history. This shift was marked by the publication of his article entitled *The Philosophy of Brick*. It explored the revived penchant for inspiration to brick buildings. These investigations took him to many

strange worlds, far removed from the ethos he had imbibed in the streets of St Pancras in the 1940s.

Theatres of Memory was hugely lauded in the quality press, bringing him a new public. Its argument was, trust the people. The heritage industry might be despised by intellectuals, but it struck a resonance deep in the culture of the people and thus could not be ignored. Among professionals, including friends who had shared much with him, opinion on this was sharply divided. But conceptually, the argument marked the culmination of his thinking since the break of 1965, and his turn for inspiration to the reflexes of the people.

In 1987 he married Alison

Light, a union of love, comradeship and hard intellectual sparring; their home became a place of warm entertainment, an axis for an assortment of networks, and an effective workshop of ideas in its own right.

Raphael Samuel believed that the emotional charge of obituaries derived from their symbolic power to "defy the idea of extinction". The symbolic power of his lifetime's work provided an impressive dignity for those ill-served by history, and worked to the same effect.

BRI Schwarz

Raphael Samuel, historian, born September 28, 1934; died December 9, 1996

Mary Leakey

A dawn for history in the dust of the gorge

BY NO stretch of any imagination could the palaeontologist Mary Leakey, who has died at the age of 83, have been called an ordinary woman. Or an ordinary wife, mother or home-maker. Or an ordinary scientist. Her fame arose as one consequence of her marriage to Louis Leakey or, contrarily, his arose partly as one consequence of marrying her. Very little was straightforward about either of their lives or their work, their relationship together or the family they produced.

Even Mary Leakey's upbringing in London was original. Her father, whom she adored, was a travelling landscape painter, often living for years away from Britain. He was an inspirational companion, nurturing her immediate interest in archaeology, taking her on walks whenever and wherever possible until, most devastatingly, he died when she was 13. In the next few years she was expelled from a couple of schools and her childhood ended without academic qualification. Then, as a diligent amateur archaeologist, glider pilot, and with a sharp wit in either French or English, she met Louis Leakey.

He was married, but not averse to other relationships. He had a daughter and his wife was pregnant again when he met Mary Nicol, having already been impressed by her illustrations of fossils. He was 30, she was 20, and she even stayed at Louis's home in Cambridge for a week when his wife was coming to the end of what had been a difficult pregnancy. Mary felt no guilt, perceiving the marriage as no kind of marriage, and drew ever closer to Louis. Even the birth of a longed-for son did not disrupt the new relationship. One month later, in January 1964, Louis informed his

wife that he had fallen in love with Mary and would be taking her to Africa.

The divorce did not take place for almost three years but, the moment formalities had been completed, Mary and Louis were married in a Herfordshire registry office, with a somewhat astonished Maasai serving as best man.

Back in Africa again life was not easy for the new pair, mainly for a terrible lack of funds. Louis's work as fossil-finder was not yet properly appreciated. He had proudly proclaimed to the powers-that-be an exciting discovery, believed to be part of human ancestry, but then had trouble re-finding the actual site, thus earning approbrium rather than a grant. In those early years Mary pursued archaeology more than he was able to do, a huge paid-for project on the Elkuyu consuming the greatest part of her time.

Their first child, Jonathan, was born in November 1940. "I quite liked having baby," Mary wrote, "but I had no intention of allowing motherhood to disrupt my work as an archaeologist." Within a few weeks of that birth she was off on another expedition while Louis stayed home to help with the baby. Her next child, a daughter, died from dysentery when three months old, and thereafter there were two more boys, Richard and Philip. "I quite liked having baby," Mary wrote, "but I had no intention of allowing motherhood to disrupt my work as an archaeologist." Within a few weeks of that birth she was off on another expedition while Louis stayed home to help with the baby. Her next child, a daughter, died from dysentery when three months old, and thereafter there were two more boys, Richard and Philip as palaeontologist, and Philip as politician.

To say there was continual harmony in the Leakey household would be to smother the threads of truth well past breaking point. Other families have occasional squabbles, but the Leakey squabbles were, or so it would seem from biographies, more like open warfare.



Digging deep... Olduvai Gorge made Leakey famous

Mary would listen to the debates, if that is correct enough a term, and would then surprise others by making "wry, irreverent and sometimes caustic remarks". What could have been done? she asked years later: "It was something the children had to sort out for themselves".

The most famous day in the Leakey story arrived in July 1969. Louis was ill with a fever and Mary went off alone to another section of Olduvai Gorge, the valley in Tanzania which had already provided innumerable animal remains as well as artefacts. For over two decades the Leakeys had been working there, a fact testifying to their extraordinary diligence. It is a hot place, far from anywhere with the ordinary comforts of life — such as running water,

but they had been determined to find a man to go with all those tools and bits of fossil animals. They spoke of "our man", as if knowing he would be unsearched — one day.

At midday on the 17th, just when the sun was making it most difficult to distinguish fossil bones from rocky stones, she noticed a bone "not lying loose on the surface but projecting from beneath," as she later wrote. "It had a hominid look, but the bones seemed enormously thick — too thick, surely." Then, as she brushed away the soil, two teeth emerged set in the curve of a jaw, instantly her doubts vanished, and she drove swiftly back to Louis. His fever vanished instantly and, after he, too, had seen the teeth, "we almost cried with sheer joy," as he wrote for the sponsoring National Geographic magazine. "... At last we had reached our goal — we had discovered the world's earliest known human."

Zinjanthropus boisei, the "man from East Africa", not only initiated much of East African hominid history but brought true renown to the Leakey endeavours. Mary had found it, but Louis argued its status within the human tree. She kept quiet, particularly on a visit to South Africa where they examined the *australopithecine* fossil fragments with might, or might not, be closely related to *Zin*. Louis was adamant about their dissimilarity. She, gaining credibility as an independent thinker, kept her opinions to herself, thus enhancing her reputation as a cautious scientist, a label which Louis was never able to achieve.

A few years later, the two Leakeys were each offered an honorary doctorate by the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Louis declined. As a Kenyan citizen he

could not accept an award from a country not even recognised — for its apartheid policies — by the Kenyan government. Mary, without an academic qualification to her name, happily accepted and travelled south alone before returning as Dr Leakey. The incident did not cause but marked a parting of the Leakey ways. She had been used to saying: "Well, we'll have to ask Louis about that." By the end of the 1960s *Olduvai* had become, as one writer called it, "her show". She could find hominid remains, direct the

excavations, and even acquire the funding. The pair did not so much part company as spend little time in each other's company, he mainly in Nairobi and her most often at Olduvai.

Parting became absolute when Louis died in 1972, but family feuding continued even then. Mary arranged for his cremation but Richard countermanded her instructions by having him buried within Kikuyu land, arguing that he was Kikuyu and such people did not accept cremation. (Mary then stipulated that she had no wish to be buried in such a place. Instead, she preferred to have her ashes scattered at Olduvai.)

By no means did Mary stop work when the reason for her arrival in East Africa had vanished. Indeed, she stood more solidly on her own two

feet than ever before. In 1975 she convened a press conference in Washington DC, a solo performance. "I used to play second fiddle to (Louis) because I really didn't like all that fuss and attention." At that meeting she told of 13 hominid fossils which had been found. Standing alone at the podium, and giving her descriptions, Dr Mary Leakey had truly arrived.

This was even more the case when she discovered the Laetoli footprints in 1977. Many animal prints had already been encountered at this place (about an hour's drive from Olduvai), and everyone at the site was on the lookout for hominid indentations. When eventually found they were not only positively bipedal, thus affirming that people (of a kind) were walking upright all those years ago, but one set of prints was superimposed upon another. This fact made identification harder but seemed to make that trio of individuals, strolling along on fresh volcanic ash, come to life even more vividly than fossilised remains.

Mary collected several more doctorates after the Johannesburg award and many other forms of honour. She also gathered antagonists, when colleagues in her field became rivals or foe. She also tended to regard the famous gorge named Olduvai as her preserve — which, in a sense, it was, as she had brought such lustre to its name. It would be a fitting cation for her ashes, even if distant from the remains of the equally difficult, equally eccentric and no less brilliant individual who was her partner for so long.

Death Notices

MATTHEW SHENSTONE December 3 1965 - December 3 1996 We shall be saying our goodbyes and remembering Matthew in St. Paul's Church, London, on Thursday 12th December at 2.30pm. Funeral arrangements by Rose Brothers, 85 Haywards Road, Winton Road, W10 7JH. Tel. 0181 549 2762.

ROTHNEY Released on November 30th 1926, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, died peacefully at home on Thursday 8th December 1996 at 11.20am. Flowers & condolences to C. B. Sutton & Sons, Woodbridge.

In Memoriam
FRYDAN PMA died 10/12/96. Remembrance with love and affection by his dear partner.

سید کاظم الامجدی

'Rocky' makes WTO pitch, page 12

Brussels gets tough on BA, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer. Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Job fears for brewery workers



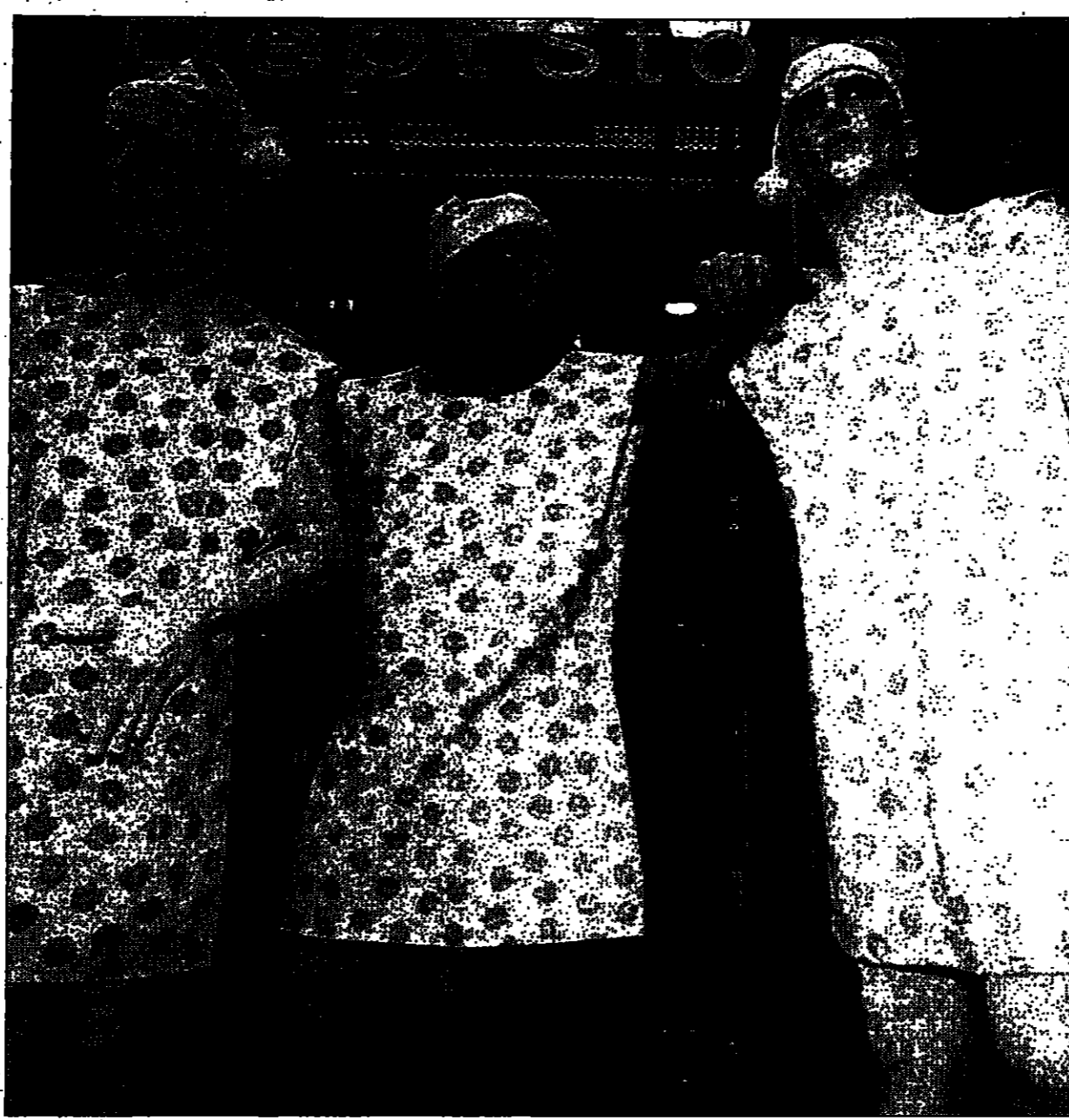
Ian Lang (above) refers Bass deal to MMC, as brewer puts Hooper's Hooch dresses on marmalades at the Doc Martens store in London. PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTIN APOLISTAWAY GOLDSTEIN

Referral to MMC thwarts Bass bid

Lisa Buckingham

THE daring attempt by Bass to regain its position as the country's biggest brewer could become ensnared by government efforts to avoid bad publicity over job losses just before a general election. City analysts are predicting...

pany to leapfrog over Scottish & Newcastle, which usurped top slot last year following its acquisition of Courage. That deal gave S&N about 30 per cent of beer production...



of concessions, the Office of Fair Trading recommended a monopolies investigation of the deal. Britain now has four big brewers, although there were seven just four years ago.

were met to satisfy competition worries. Although any delay to Bass being able to consolidate Carlsberg-Tetley will reduce its potential cost savings, most analysts are still betting the company will be allowed to go ahead with the purchase...

Bears kill the Bull's float

THE owners of a pub which is the model for The Bull in The Archers have abandoned plans for a flotation because of the market's volatility, writes Tony May.

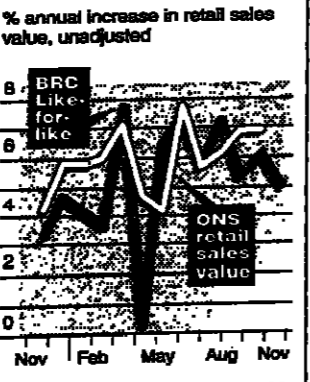
ing paid hundreds of thousands of pounds in fees to financial advisers. Market sources said investors were now wary of putting funds into untried equities and more casualties were bound to emerge.

Pace of retail sales surge slows

Sarah Ryle

HOPES that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will leave interest rates on hold when he meets Bank of England governor Eddie George tomorrow are fuelled by evidence today of a slowdown in the retail sales boom...

Retail sales



the same time a year ago — the lowest level since April. The BRC survey shows the underlying rate of sales growth in the three months to...

November has also fallen, to 5.3 per cent, with competitive pressures holding back price rises and the threat of higher interest rates making consumers cautious.

years, according to the Office for National Statistics. The rise in sterling has come through dramatically and rapidly, suggesting that prices remain under intense pressure, said Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Japanese bank Nikko Europe.

Bank staff fight to have Christmas eve afternoon off

Pauline Springett

MORE than 35,000 staff at Lloyds and NatWest may strike on Christmas eve afternoon, banking union Bifu warned yesterday. They are protesting against plans by both banks to open their branches for a full day on Christmas eve — banks have traditionally closed their doors at midday.

want time to join their families and enjoy Christmas. He said that there was no evidence that customers wanted a full banking service on Christmas eve afternoon and added that the country's 21,000 cash machines would still be operational.

Labour could force utilities to share 'excessive' profits

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

LABOUR yesterday confirmed it was considering a plan to share out excessive profits of the privatised utilities between customers and shareholders.

agreed or 'normal' profit level. This would be on top of the planned one-off 'windfall tax' on utilities' profits.

ing for some time the introduction of a redistributive mechanism as a long-term measure to control utilities' profits. The proposal represents a half-way house between the US utility regulation system, under which a company's rate of return is controlled, and the UK system of cutting prices relative to the rate of inflation — the 'RPI minus X' formula.

the regulators had anticipated. Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator, criticised the Government yesterday for failing to introduce legislation to compel water companies to pay compensation to customers forced to use standpipes during droughts, writes Nicholas Barnister. The Government has, however, accepted another of Mr Byatt's proposals and ordered the companies to make a £25 payment or credit to any customer suffering low water pressure more than once in a 28-day period.

Notebook

Salutary warning for investors



Edited by Alex Brummer

AFTER all the turbulence of last week normality has suitably restored to equities and the foreign exchange in the latest trading session. Plainly, as far as the FTSE and the pound are concerned the producer prices data were a clear plus. It seems that the stronger pound has been strutting its stuff as far as input prices are concerned with a 3.2 per cent tumble month on month: the biggest drop since the series began in 1979.

generously waved through, allowing the company to claim nearly a third of the beer market at the expense of a meagre 115 pubs. But the merger between Bass and Carlsberg-Tetley is the last big deal possible in a rapidly concentrating brewing industry, and should be reviewed. Admittedly the size of the total market has contracted — production is now 10 billion pints a year against 12 billion pints in 1979. But, against that, the number of big brewing groups has reduced from seven to four since 1983.

Cheaper calls

NOBODY should miss the significance of Otel's latest proposals for price controls on British Telecom's network charges. At the end of the day customers should be better off.

Don Cruickshank, Otel's director general, is applying the same logic to the wholesale side of the BT's business as he applied to the retail side last year. He plans to require price controls from the parts of BT business which already face full competition.

Bass challenge

BASS could have hoped for kinder treatment from Ian Lang. But if the competition rules are to mean anything, the group's attempt to leap back into number one position with a near-40 per cent share of the British beer market has to be tested by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The net effect of wholesale pricing regimes will be to force BT to reduce interconnection charges — which other operators pay BT for use of its network — either by regulation or by competitive pressure.

Zeneca and Unichem study plan for 'privatised' clinics

Lisa Buckingham

DRUGS group Zeneca yesterday emerged alongside Unichem, the pharmacy chain, as possible bidders for a government pilot scheme of privately run health services that will be under contract to National Health Service trusts.

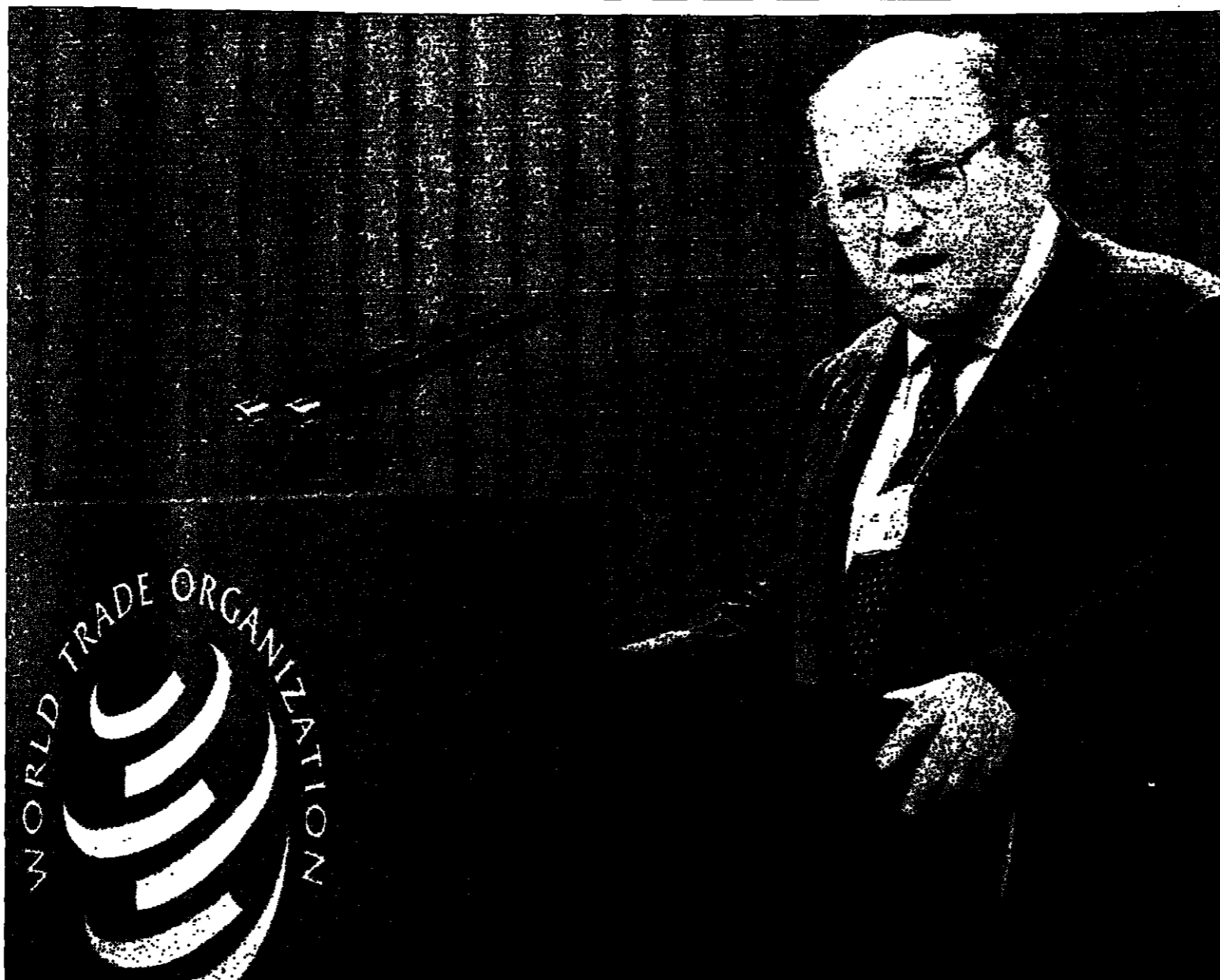
big supermarket groups are studying the idea of expanding their existing pharmacy businesses into more extensive medical operations. The changes will be facilitated next year when the Primary Care Bill becomes law. That will make it easier for organisations outside the NHS to employ doctors and dentists in a move which opposition MPs regard as a step towards privatising the health service.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA.



Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

PROFILE/
'Rocky'
has that
vision
thing. But
will the
WTO chief
frighten the
free trade
laggards?



Renato Ruggiero makes his pitch at the World Trade Organisation's ministerial meeting which opened in Singapore yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD VOGEL

Trainspotter's trainspotter

Larry Elliott in Singapore and John Hooper in Rome

THE two sides of Renato Ruggiero were on show yesterday in Singapore as the director general of the World Trade Organisation opened his first ministerial meeting with a rhetorical flourish and some hard bargaining. The man with a vision and the man with a mission, Mr Ruggiero, a 66-year-old Italian, has no time for those that would put obstacles in the way of a future he sees shaped by the interplay of globalisation and free trade. Yet overcoming obstacles, slowly and incrementally, is what trade talks are all about; settling esoteric arguments about the phasing-out of the

Multi-Fibre Arrangement — as the WTO did yesterday — and it is about how and when China should be allowed in, a matter that the European Union and the US will cross swords on today. This painstaking business is not "Rocky" Ruggiero's strength, some say. He would like to be known as the man who cut the Gordian knot of world trade liberalisation, not the trainspotter's trainspotter. But Italian observers say horse-trading is a recurrent theme in his career. A businessman who has seen him in action called him a "shrewd, tough negotiator". In his opening address yesterday, Mr Ruggiero was at his inspirational best, saying that knowledge would be like water in the 21st century — an essential resource. "Our challenge is to extend

and widen the global aqueducts — to help irrigate parched soil." WTO insiders believe this approach — a broad sweep of history accompanied by a willingness to knock heads together — is the only one that will work to break down protectionist sentiment. The Uruguay Round of trade talks lasted for longer than the second world war and were bogged down for longer than the armies on the Western Front in the first. No one relishes another seven years of hard slog. Mr Ruggiero would like to see a new round started by the turn of the century, with investment, competition policy, and government procurement sitting beside the scheduled reopening of negotiations on services and agriculture to form the nucleus of a package.

By that time, Mr Ruggiero will have gone. His four-year term ends in mid-1998 and he will not get another. But the WTO makes no apologies for his up-front approach. "This is not a natural diplomat. He is in too much of a hurry." It's not the sole charge. In 1991, after leaving the Italian cabinet, where he served three premiers as trade minister, he took up a post as executive vice-chairman of Fiat's international advisory board. He became, in effect, the company's roving ambassador-cum-troubleshotter. The first accusation levelled against him is that, in the run-up to the Gulf war and while still a minister, he helped Fiat press ahead with a contract for the arming of a flotilla of Iraqi warships. The second is that, as a self-declared free-trader, he ought not to have been representing the company at a time when it was fighting tooth and nail to keep Japanese imports out of Europe.

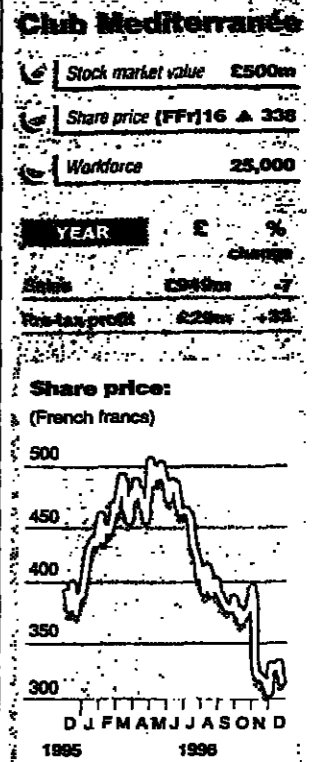
Both charges are fiercely contested by a former aide. He said Mr Ruggiero had been ordered by more senior ministers to allow work on the Iraqi warships to proceed, but had refused on the grounds that it could upset the geopolitical balance in the region. But the workaholic WTO director-general is not without friends. Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner responsible for trade, and Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, yesterday publicly supported a new round starting in 2000. And there were signs last night that the US and the EU are inching towards a limited deal on Information Technology that would open up some markets to the West's powerful computer and electronics companies. It would be a success for Mr Ruggiero if he could complete the unfinished business at the end of the Uruguay Round — TT and the delayed agreement on telecommunications — and show that the WTO was fulfilling its role as the policeman of world trade, if he gets China and Russia on board that too would be a coup. But it is unlikely to be enough, and there is the real danger that his grandiose ambitions will be thwarted.

Tale of sun, sea, sand and sharks

OUTLOOK/The biggest shareholders in Club Med have left the holiday firm at the mercy of predators. Ian King reports

WHILE Britain's tour operators brace themselves for the outcome of a Monopolies Commission inquiry into their business, they should spare a thought for Club Méditerranée, the biggest French tour operator and once a byword for glamour. Club Med, apart from seeing a third of its market value wiped out over the past six months, now faces the prospect of a hostile takeover bid which it seems powerless to fight. Club Med's plight stems from a decision by its five biggest shareholders to end a six-year-old pact that stopped any of them from lifting their stakes to more than 13 per cent.

Under the agreement, which ended on Friday night, the five — Japanese insurance group Nippon Life, Saudi investment group Ro-laco, state-run Calise des Dépôts, French investment company Compagnie Financière Benjamin et Edmond de Rothschild, and Exor, the investment company owned by Fiat's Agnelli family — were also obliged to give each other first option if they were to sell. Now the pact has ended, Club Med is no longer bid proof and its shares jumped sharply on the Paris bourse yesterday in response. Apart from the five, Accor, the world's biggest hotelier which has a small stake in Club Med, was immediately made favourite to bid, although Airtours, Britain's second-biggest tour operator, was also tipped by some. Granada, the biggest hotelier in the UK, has already ruled out making a move. Not everyone is convinced that the five have ended their pact simply so that one of them can bid for Club Med. Some analysts claim the move was instead an attempt to deliver a kick to the company's management. Their frustration is understandable. At the end of October, less than a year after it launched a hugely discounted Fr800 million (£102 million) rights issue and only 18 months after it passed on a dividend payment, Club Med issued a profits warning. Weak holiday spending and France's high unemployment rate were held to blame. It was all the more unwelcome because a month earlier chairman Serge Trigano — whose father Gilbert founded the company in the 1960s — said the group was on course to hit its profit target for the year and that the number of customers buying package holidays was growing. It later transpired he meant packages at the bargain-basement end of the market. To be fair to Club Med, not all its problems have been of its own making. It can hardly be blamed for the rocket attack launched last year by Hizbollah guerrillas on one of its holiday villages in north Israel, or for the boycott of its Asian resorts by Australian and Japanese tourists in retaliation for French nuclear testing in the Pacific. Club Med's traditional customers have aged and it has been forced to try to sell itself to a younger market at a time when it has been cutting costs and when other operators — like the hetero-only Sandals resorts in the Caribbean — have taken its ideas and used them more successfully. Olivier Rigault, Club Med's finance director, insisted yesterday that the end of the pact did not mean a bid was on the way. According to him, the shareholders merely want more flexibility although he admits the group needs to improve its performance. He added: "Technically it is possible there will be a bid, but I am not expecting one, and am fed up with having to talk about it."



Nigel Reed, an analyst at broker Paribas, said he believed many groups would now be running the rule over Club Med. "I expect that most people will be having a look at it. One of the five are possibilities but I wouldn't rule Airtours out." Bidding for Club Med will not be easy. Aside from a likely \$600 million knock-out price — perhaps too much for Airtours — 95 per cent of the voting rights in the group are controlled by the five who were in the pact and the Agnelli, in particular, could prove hard to shake off. Against that, Club Med still has an excellent brand name. Despite all its problems, in a high-growth industry like tourism that, along with the unpopularity of Club Med's management, makes a bid inevitable at some point.

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Ambitious Tykes engineer US buy

BBA Group, the ambitious engineering group, is to buy international Air Motive and American manufacturer of aviation components, for a total £178.2 million in cash. Yorkshire-based BBA, which earlier this year abandoned a putative \$2.4 billion bid for Lucas, said yesterday that it had signed a conditional agreement on the deal, in which BBA will take on some \$63.4 million in debt. BBA shares rose 99p to 349 on news of the deal, which, subject to approval from American regulators, is expected to be completed early next year. Robert Quarta, BBA's chief executive, said International Air Motive was an attractive opportunity. He pointed out that the company had a leading position in its US markets. In particular, Mr Quarta said, International Air Motive's focus on engineering would create "an important bridge" between BBA's existing manufacturing and service activities, and improve the overall balance of the group. He added: "This acquisition reflects BBA's commitment to building its aviation division as a core business. International Air Motive and BBA's existing aviation activities together offer exciting growth prospects, both in the US and worldwide." International Air Motive's two main businesses are Dallas Air Motive, one of the biggest turbine engine repairers, and International Turbine, which distributes parts to the aviation market. Its main operating locations are St Louis, Charlotte, Fort Lauderdale and Pittsburgh.

Brussels gets tough on BA alliance

THE European Commission's anti-trust authorities yesterday dismissed the conditions set by the UK Government for clearance of BA's alliance with American Airlines as too weak. Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang announced last week that he would not refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission providing the two airlines sold off up to 168 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow Airport. But EU officials said yesterday that the commission considered the number of slots stipulated as insufficient to ensure the deal did not stifle competition. It said it wanted to see the slots surrendered, rather than sold off. "The commission, which is investigating whether the deal is compatible with EU competition laws, had 'serious doubts about the operation'," said one official. The airlines together hold more than 60 per cent of transatlantic traffic. But a BA spokesman said yesterday: "Our understanding is that it's the UK authorities who have the overall power in this matter." BA had nevertheless promised to cooperate with the investigation. He pointed out that agreements reached by other European airlines with US carriers had not been obliged to surrender any slots. Richard Branson's Virgin Express regional airline said yesterday it would not be bidding for Air Liberté, clearing the way for British Airways to swoop on the ailing French carrier.

BCCI creditors will get first payout

LIQUIDATORS of BCCI will give creditors 24.5 cents in the dollar on the debt in excess of \$1.25 billion (pact out today). It will be the first payout for the creditors since the Bank of Credit and Commerce International was shut five years ago, with debts of more than \$10 billion, by regulators who said it was used by drug dealers and Third World dictators for laundering money. Liquidators from Deloitte and Touche hope within 18 months to make another payment giving 30,000 creditors another 10 cents in the dollar. They say they might get more money from lawsuits filed against the Bank of England, which is accused of lax supervision, and the accounting firms Ernst and Young and Price Waterhouse. The ruling family of Abu Dhabi, the largest BCCI shareholder, has agreed to pay \$1.2 billion. The liquidators say they have recovered about \$4 billion, compared with the liabilities of \$10.5 billion owed when it collapsed. — AP

Council backs down

WELWYN Hatfield council has withdrawn its appeal against a judgment forcing it to pay £49 million in damages to Slough Estates, the property group headed by Sir Nigel Mobs. The High Court had accepted Slough's claim that it had gone ahead with its Howard shopping centre in Welwyn Garden City only after being told that a shopping centre in nearby Hatfield would not be competing directly. The value of the centre, which cost Slough £77 million, fell by £49 million after the council relaxed its rules for the Hatfield centre without telling Slough. — Ian King

Pearson deal to go ahead

MEDIA and entertainment group Pearson is taking a 50 per cent stake in South African business publications Business Day and Financial Mail. The £1.5 billion acquisition, including an investment in the African Business Channel, came despite fears of a legal challenge from a rival South African publisher. Pearson's other business titles include the Financial Times, 60 per cent of the Economist, and Les Echos in France. — Lisa Buckingham

Border reaches to Sunderland

BORDER Television said it is in talks with Minister Sound Radio about buying 100 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital of Sunderland City Radio Ltd. Minister Sound is about 30 per cent owned by commercial radio operator GWR Group. Radio Investments Ltd also owns a similar amount. — Reuter

صدا من الامل

The Guardian Tuesday December 10 1996

American Football Favre on fire to buck Broncos

Mark Tran in New York

THE Denver Broncos without John Elway at quarterback are a bit like a party without a drink. But a 41-6 rout at the hands of the Green Bay Packers was a sobering experience...



Crunch match... the Pack's Edger Bennett wins a first down the hard way

arm. The quarterback's two interceptions halted the Broncos' drive. While the Packers bolstered their Super Bowl credentials, the Dallas Cowboys returned to the top of the NFC East...

season. "They played like the team with tradition. We came out," said George Seifert, the 49ers coach. The Super Bowl champions, the Dallas Cowboys, returned to the top of the NFC East...

AFC Central by overcoming the San Diego Chargers 16-13 and kept their unbeaten record. Three Rivers Stadium. Sean Salisbury, who was replacing the injured Stan Humphries at quarterback for the Chargers, was sacked five times...

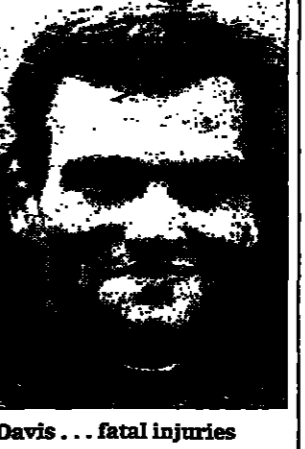
Racing

Dead jockey's parents plead for safer tracks

Chris Hawkins

THE family of Richard Davis last night called for an overhaul of racecourse safety standards as an inquest returned a verdict of accidental death on the 26-year-old jockey...

outcome was inevitable. The appropriate course to follow now is that there should be a general inquiry into the safety of racecourses as there have been in other sports where there have been similar accidents. Davis was riding Mr Sox, trained by Laura Shally, in the two-mile Fisherton Novices Chase when his mount fell at the first fence...



Davis... fatal injuries

private ambulance company. Ambulink, whose staff were not NHS trained and therefore not qualified to carry out certain procedures without the supervision of a doctor...

be taken by the Jockey Club has yet to be decided, but it looks a strong possibility. The inquiry dismisses subsequent claims that Mr Sox was unfit to run. There were accusations from some quarters that Mr Sox had a fractured pelvis but the report states that "the veterinary surgeon who attended the horse earlier in the summer has confirmed that his examinations showed no evidence of any pelvic fracture"...

Jukes rubs Forster up the wrong way

Ken Oliver

JAMIE JUKE, the former champion point-to-point rider, will not be receiving a Christmas card from trainer Tim Forster...

He was handed a 10-day ban (starting December 18) after taking the wrong course on the Forster-trained Bironi, backed to 4-5 for the HRH Prince Of Wales Chase. Jukes had negotiated just one fence of the three-mile holiday period after the course was changed...

stand and took the hurdle course. Realising his error, Jukes turned round and made after his four rivals, despite toiling more than a fence in arrears. After much hard work from his embarrassed rider, Bironi had produced a fine performance...

They were held in third place when Jukes's day of days was completed by Bironi falling at the final fence, with the race going to Opal's Tentak. "I would take his licence away for six months," seethed Forster. "An experienced man like him who has ridden round here hundreds of times..."

Huntingdon runners and riders with form guide

- 12.30 Surrey Deodar 2.00 Sturton 2.30 Amber Spark (imp) 3.00 Moxmoor 3.30 Coxy Hill

- 6.10.35-10.35 RIVER LEVER (25) D Gaultie 7-10-6 7.50-20. TOTAL ANKBY (25) A Forbes 8-10-0

- 12.30 PLAT JOKERS CLAIMING HURDLE 2m (11yo) £2,500 1. 12013-1 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0 2. 12014-2 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0

- 2.30 NATIONAL WINTER JOCKEY HURDLE 2m (11yo) £2,500 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

Plumpton

- 12.40 General Statement 2.10 Fairbairn 1.10 Ashwick Colston 2.40 Colfax Town 1.40 Mr Watt 3.10 Longh Tully 3.40 Stoney Valley

- 12.40 GENERAL STATEMENT 2.10 FAIRBAIRN 1.10 ASHWICK COLSTON 2.40 COLFAX TOWN 1.40 MR WATT 3.10 LONGH TULLY 3.40 STONEY VALLEY

Sedgefield

- 12.50 Grand Cru 1.50 Royal Parade 12.50 Paperweight 2.50 One For The Pot 1.50 Treaders 2.50 Joke Box Billy 3.50 Doodling Don

- 12.50 GRAND CRU 1.50 ROYAL PARADE 12.50 PAPERWEIGHT 2.50 ONE FOR THE POT 1.50 TREADERS 2.50 JOKE BOX BILLY 3.50 DOODLING DON

1.00 WHAT A BUCK HURDLE CHASE 2m £2,500

- 1. 1201-1 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0 2. 1201-2 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0

2.30 HORSEWATER WINTERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEY HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

2.10 CHERRY MOVER HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

1.50 HANS HEAD HURDLE CHASE 2m £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

2.50 LENS MACHINERY HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

1.30 POINTS OF BRY WOODS HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

3.30 WEATHERS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' BE PLAY INTERMEDIATE - CLASS 10m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

3.10 CHERRY MOVER HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

3.50 EASTWOODS HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

2.50 BONE OF BONES HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

2.00 THE PETER CROSSMAN BERT WOODS HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

3.50 EASTWOODS HURDLE CHASE 2m (11yo) £2,500

- 1. 1001-1 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0 2. 1001-2 ALABAMA (14) (20) M J Owen 7-10-0

MOLE BOARD

One of the most popular hurdlers in recent years, collapsed and died on trainer Jim Old's gallops yesterday. The 14-year-old ran some fine races, notably his effort in the 1994 Champion Hurdle when he was fourth to Flukey Dove.

MUSSELLBURGH

12.30 (2m) THORNTON, KILMARNOCK (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0 12.30 (2m) THORNTON, KILMARNOCK (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0

MOONAX DEBUT

MOONAX, the 1994 St Leger winner and 16-1 with Ladbrokes for the Champion Hurdle next March, makes his debut over jumps in the novice hurdle event at Huntingdon this afternoon.

Results

FOLKESTONE 1.00 (2m) 11yo Hurdle 1. 1201-1 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0 2. 1201-2 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0

12.30 (2m) 11yo Hurdle 1. 1201-1 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0 2. 1201-2 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0

1.30 (2m) 11yo Hurdle 1. 1201-1 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0 2. 1201-2 ABARIM BOLD (21) (9) M Jackson 9-11-0

Advertisement for RAGELINE featuring a table of race results and a phone number 0930 168.

Course criticised at jockey inquest, page 13

Premiership in £36m sponsorship deal, page 14

Botham the motivator flies out, page 14

Guscott back in England colours, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER



European union... Forest's Wales international Saunders involved in an arms deal with Newcastle's Frenchman Ginola at the City Ground last night PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM CHADWICK

Premiership: Nottingham Forest 0, Newcastle United 0

Newcastle draw a blank

David Lacey

BOTH Nottingham Forest and Newcastle United belied their respective league positions in a game at the City Ground last night which was notable for little except scrappy movement and missed opportunities. Forest, the bottom team before the

game, played above themselves. Newcastle, hoping to find form in what was to become their first goalless draw since April 1995. Newcastle needed a Premiership pick-me-up. In the seven weeks since they beat Manchester United 5-0 their league form had become something of an anticlimax: only one win in five games and 10 points dropped.

With Batty suspended and Asprilla injured they were always going to have to improvise to some extent, although Ferdinand, recovered from a fractured cheekbone, was back in the attack after missing five matches. Not that the opposition appeared likely to give them much of an argument either way.

Off the pitch Forest continue to be the subject of takeover discussions, on it their chances of survival in the Premiership are becoming of more interest to undertakers. They had suffered their longest run of league games without a win, 16, since before women had the vote. Two more failures and this figure would be equalled.

This game was always going to be about crosses, their quality and the effectiveness with which the defences dealt with them. In the opening minute a good, early centre from Elliott gave Forest considerable angst but Newcastle became just as flustered after Smeek had met Saunders' cross with a weak punch.

With Shearer and Ferdinand the targets, Newcastle were the more likely to prosper from any half-decent service the wings provided. Yet Forest should have gone ahead in the fifth minute after Allen outpaced Watson on the left and cut into the penalty area before crossing low. Haaland had made a stealthy run through the middle, catching the Newcastle centre-backs unawares, but with the goal gaping he shot over the bar.

As Ferdinand, having found Ginola in space, met the Frenchman's cross with a glancing header over the bar, it looked as if Forest would soon rue that missed opportunity. Yet Newcastle's passing took a while longer to find its usual fluency. Shearer hardly saw the ball during the opening half but, although Crossley was glad enough to fist the ball off his eyebrows after Ginola's centre had swung towards the England striker in the 25th minute.

Forest must have suspected that if they were going to achieve an unlikely victory

this was the time to strike. Woan's clever chip forward might have set Campbell up on the half-hour but he was not quite up to the chance. Four minutes later Lytle's centre from the right found Campbell unmarked near the six-yard line, but his header was awry.

Nottingham Forest reached half-time in a slightly happier frame of mind. Cooper and Chettle had coped well with Shearer and Ferdinand, and the better chances had come Forest's way.

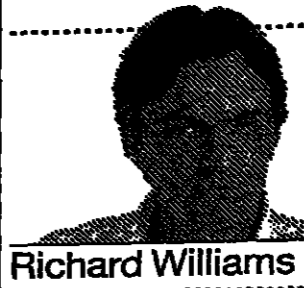
The last of these had fallen to Woan in the 41st minute, following a mix-up between Smeek and Albert, but he lobbed the ball wide. Even then Newcastle could have grabbed the lead, but Ferdinand's close-range shot was too high.

Twenty seconds into the second half, Watson met a ball from Cooper with a panky header straight into the path of Saunders, who was through on goal with the defence in chaos. Only the bobbie saved Newcastle.

Saunders making contact with shin rather than foot and giving Smeek a simple save. Yet another miss, but Forest still took heart from this further evidence of Newcastle's lingering frailties at the back. For sides in Forest's position, however, hearts are made to be broken and as Crossley blocked shots from Ginola and Shearer Newcastle began to look something more like their usual selves.

Nottingham Forest: Crossley; Lytle, Cooper, Chettle, Pearce, Hasland, Phillips, Woan, Allen, Saunders, Campbell. Newcastle United: Smeek; Watson, Ferdinand, Albert, Elliott, Crossley, Lee, Shearer, Ginola, Shearer, Ferdinand. Referee: D. Ellery (Harrow-on-the-Hill).

No sympathy vote for coach Rowell



Richard Williams

FROM a distance at least, Jack Rowell is not the easiest of men with whom to empathise in moments of trial and tribulation. There is a harshness in his public manner that shades readily into something like arrogance, making him a natural target for *schadenfreude* rather than sympathy when things go wrong for England's rugby team.

In bad times, his management style seems to draw unnecessary attention to itself. This is partly because he is, physically, a big man and hard to ignore on the training ground or in the grandstand. His presence is lofty, intense and critical. Whether he intends it or not, the impression is always given that the team is his creation, playing in his looming shadow.

It says something about his stewardship of England that, even after 2½ years and an awful lot of matches, his team changes frequently provoke a reflex wince rather than an automatic nod of approval. So his selection of Jeremy Guscott to play out of position on the wing for Saturday's match against Argentina, thus postponing the choice between Guscott and Will Carling, looks like a rather contemptible compromise rather than an inspiration, while picking Nick Beal to replace the injured Tim Stimpson at full-back provokes negative thoughts about the fates of Jonathan Callard and poor, forgotten Paul Hull.

Can this really be a crisis time, so soon after last season's Triple Crown? Only if you think that defeat at the hands of the New Zealand Barbarians was a great deal more significant than the victory over Italy, and that the manner of it suggested England have made only negative progress in the past two years and are no further on the road towards World Cup success now than they were then.

You do not need to swallow David Campese's provocations to share a belief that Rowell might be in for another season of uncomfortably intimate examination, intensified by the visits of the New Zealanders, the Australians and the South Africans, each dem-

onstrating not merely the ability of their players to think with the ball in their hands but the belief that even the top sides must remain mindful of the requirements of evolution and transition. These three tests have reminded us what an incomparably better game rugby union is now than it was before the agonising process of modernisation began. And along with their familiar stars — the Fitzpatricks, Campese and Westhustons — they have taken the opportunity to show us the talents of the next generation.

Watching Christian Cullen attack England 10 days ago was like seeing Diego Maradona make his World Cup debut. The 20-year-old New Zealand full-back gives the impression of being a talent on another level, although England's habit of giving him the ball and an acre of space to run in could hardly have been calculated to lower his self-esteem. Carlos Spencer, a year older, benefited from England's tiredness when he arrived late on to show us his tricks, but what fantastic confidence he displayed as replacement fly-half, inside him the unsung Justin Marshall had such a wonderfully effective game that he was practically invisible.

So where, one thought, were the two chaps who played at half-back for England last year as Rowell's designated successors to Dewi Morris and Rob Andrew? What were their names again? For all their impact on international rugby this season, Dawson and Grayson might as well have been Les and Larry. What a difference Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly would make to Rowell's side. The New Zealand backs, the rugby league men dismissed play-by-numbers routine, trusting their own instincts and intuition.

THERE must be a growing suspicion that Mike Catt, who wins his 20th England cap on Saturday, is becoming rugby union's equivalent of Graeme Hick. Regarded with extreme awe when he arrived from southern Africa, and consistently devastating at club level, he now looks like a daffodil-bully whose talent shrivels at the highest level of competition.

Rowell coached him in his early days at Bath and presumably knows him as well as anyone. So I think we can say that a continuation of Catt's failure to impose himself in an England shirt will tell us at least as much about the coach as it does about the player.

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Emerson flies into a late tackle from Bryan Robson

EMERSON, Middlesbrough's wandering star, flew back to Bristol from Rio de Janeiro yesterday and will have talks today over his future at the club with the manager Bryan Robson.

The wayward Brazilian, who has returned late to the club three times in the past month, was to have flown into Teesside airport with his wife Andrea but they were diverted to Newcastle by fog. The 34-year-old midfielder declined to

comment as he boarded a bus to his Teesside home.

He is due to train this morning and then talk with Robson. A meeting with the chairman Steve Gibson and club officials will follow tomorrow.

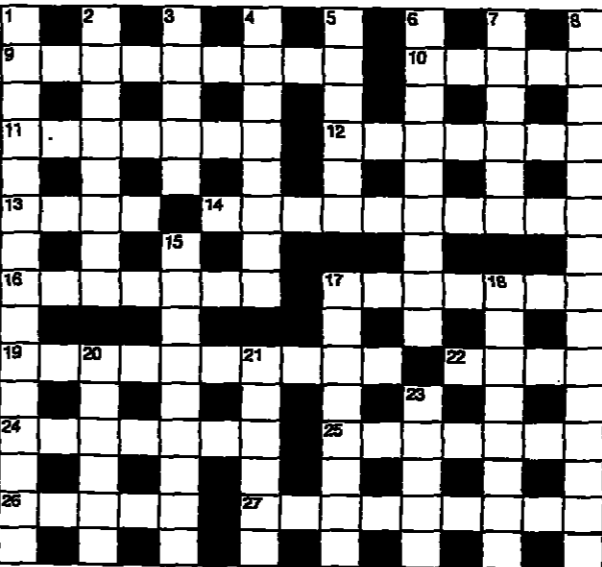
Emerson, already fined nearly £100 for drunkenness, was late back from a trip to Rio and a weekend in Portugal last month, and this time he was supposed to return a week ago but missed two Premiership games, at home to Leicester

and Leeds. He claims Andrea has been ill, delaying his return, but club officials believe he is attempting to force a £6 million transfer to Barcelona or Parma.

Middlesbrough's chief executive Keith Lamb said: "The important thing is to get him back here, then we can remind him of his obligations. He has signed a four-year contract and he must honour it. But we want conciliation, we want him to be happy here with Andrea."

Guardian Crossword No 20,832

Set by Gordius

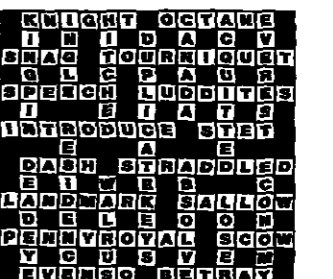


Across

- 9 Can one surmount bad administration? (9)
- 10 Fill the church may be sorry about (5)
- 11 A Welshman is economical with 6, like some of these (7)
- 12 A grocodile may provide revenue on the river (7)
- 13 Possible evidence of a hot temper? (4)
- 14 Deal a blow to West End share index with little cash (5,1,4)
- 16 Russian leader deported from Spain (7)
- 17 Richard the First in trouble — with John? (7)
- 19 Mark of a greengrocer? (10)
- 22 Fever affecting half of Dutch capital (4)
- 24 One whose rank belies his situation? (7)

Down

- 1 see 8
- 2 Jack's in the drink (3)
- 3 Allow maid to brew a little tea (5)
- 4 English maid takes charge of output (8)
- 5 One doing exercise gains colour (5)
- 6 A bit of propaganda is cutting no ice over exaltitude (9)
- 7 Rogue one served with pub food (5)
- 8,1 The way to wipe a grin off Blair first (5,3,4,2,5,4)
- 15 Hateful propaganda makes you crazy (9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,831

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are John A. Lake of West Ferry, Dundee, Angus; Grauman of Worthing, Sussex; K.W.J. Barnham of Dorling, Kent; Brown of Sheriff Hutton, York; and Caroline Lancaster of Milton Keynes.

- 17 Both him and myself swallowed up by monster (8)
- 18 Drunk said to have travelled on the carriage way (8)
- 20 Nothing on the organ can be musical (5)
- 21 State or say on (6)
- 22 Present array of endless wonder (5)

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Peter Preston

Real Lives G2 page 7

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